

AN
AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT
OF THE
BARBARITIES
LATELY PRACTISED

BY
THE MONSTERS!

Being an unprecedented and unnatural Species
of Cruelty, exercised by a set of MEN upon
defenceless and generally handsome WOMEN.

WITH
The public Measures adopted on the Occa-
sion, &c. including the TRIAL of
RYNWICK WILLIAMS.

L O N D O N:
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A N
AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT
OF THE
BARBARITIES
LATELY PRACTISED
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THE MONSTERS.

A NEW species of barbarity has lately been practised in this metropolis, so novel in the method, so unaccountable in the motive, and so shocking and repugnant to our feelings as *men*, that for a considerable time it has scarcely been believed by those who have heard or read the different accounts concerning it.

Some motive, some kind of cause may be assigned for almost every crime we have hitherto been acquainted with; but for this *crime without a name*, this novel, unaccount-

able, unmanly species of barbarity, no motive whatsoever, no gratification, no stimulating cause can possibly be traced, or even imagined, by the most fertile invention.

For one man of equal bodily strength to attack another, by surprise and unprepared, and with a dangerous weapon too, it would very justly be deemed a *base* and *cowardly* action.

For a man of superior strength to attack a weak and defenceless person of his own sex, in the manner just mentioned, would be considered as the very *extreme* of a cowardly disposition, equally malicious and dastardly.

What appellation, then, are we to apply to a *being*, a *wretch*, who makes it his business, and seems to enjoy a horrid pleasure therein, to attack the most lovely, the most beautiful part of the creation, *women*—unprotected and defenceless?—His crime highly aggravated by the manner in which it is committed, by the most sudden surprise, upon *Females*, when unsuspecting and off their guard, and with an unknown weapon of an uncommon sharpness, that seems to have been
prepared

prepared for the inhuman purpose, certainly dangerous and formidable ! a crime rendered still more atrocious by the insult that generally accompanies the outrage, and by the savage delight he enjoys in the terror, pain, and distress of the lovely victim !

Such a *being*, such a *wretch*, has been called the MONSTER, on account of the action being of a nature so *horrible* and *monstrous*.

But for the CRIME itself, from which he has derived his appellation, our laws, and even our language, to their credit be it spoken, hitherto want a name.

That such a person really exists, we have taken great pains, and with sufficient success, to ascertain.

And we lament being obliged likewise to declare, that the perpetrator of this unnatural mischief does not stand *singly*, nor is he without associated guilt.

In our investigations, and the authentic communications that have been made to us, the descriptions vary in every shade,

from dark to fair, and from the tallest to a diminutive stature.

We lament, therefore, with extreme concern, that we are under the necessity of observing, that there is, beyond all doubt, a *number* of these *unnatural ruffians*; and that those who look for an end to the mischief, by a single conviction, lose sight of the original object of their pursuit.

That rewards will answer, in this instance, the purpose for which they are offered, there likewise is certainly the greatest reason to doubt.

The appellation of the *Monster* has generally been adopted in the narrations of this unprecedented business, not because it was conceived that there was but *one*, for it is evident there are *several of these horrid wretches*, but merely to point out the *same object* to the vigilance of the spirited, benevolent, and active part of the community, with whom *truth* and *sensibility* are much more estimable than *scepticism* and *ridicule*.

However, the levity with which these barbarous transactions have been regarded,
and

and openly treated, *by a certain description of persons*, whilst it evinces their *insensibility*, gives an idea of *suspicion* against them, neither to the credit of their *humanity* nor their *gallantry*.

It having been the fashion for some time to treat these most extraordinary narrations with ridicule, has been not a little instrumental in shedding the blood which has been spilt, and exciting those outrages in a gang of unnatural *wretches*, whose abominable enormities call aloud for their extermination.

For the information and satisfaction of the public, in this most extraordinary business, we have, with great pains and assiduity, collected and investigated the principal and authentic transactions, and have herein stated them with truth, candour, and fidelity.

The several relations and different statements are from the best authority, and most genuine, original, and pure sources of information.

And the progress of this most unaccountable

countable species of cruelty, with the steps that led to its being made public, are gradually traced, and fairly laid down, or marked out, as they occurred.

And as a description of the person of each of the fair victims of this novel species of barbarity must be interesting and acceptable upon such an occasion, a slight sketch of that likewise, just an outline or slight delineation of each lady, shall be laid before our readers.

THE first of these unnatural attacks, that has come to the knowledge of the public, was upon Mrs. *Smyth*, lady of Dr. *Smyth*, of Stephen-street, Rathbone Place.

This lady is of the middle size, or perhaps a very little under, young and handsome, with dark eyes, auburn hair, blooming colour, good teeth, and a remarkably agreeable, mild, and expressive countenance.

Her dress was then a silver muslin gown, pea-green satin petticoat, pale-blue hat, and blue sash, &c.

Early on a Sunday evening, a few days after the middle of May 1788, on or about the eighteenth, as Mrs. *Smyth* was returning to the house of an acquaintance in Johnson's Court, Fleet-street, a man came up to her, opposite to Fleet-market, walked by her side, and made use of the most shocking and indecent language; to which she made no answer, but endeavoured to avoid him.

When

When she came to the court, she was afraid to go up it, as the man continued to keep close to her; and she went past it, thinking to get clear of him by turning back suddenly.

She went some distance past the court, towards Temple-bar, then turning back, and observing four persons going up Johnson's Court, she followed close after them; but she found that the man had also turned back, and accompanied her.

In the court, she desired him 'to go about his business, and not to follow her;' and the house she was going to being the first in the court, she knocked hard at the door: but the man also stood upon the steps by her side, or rather before her, using the same indecent language as he had done all along; and, just before the door was opened, struck her a violent blow, just under her left breast, which he immediately repeated, with great force, on her left hip, or upper part of the thigh; then waited, with perfect composure, looking at her, until the door was opened.

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The first blow on her breast deprived her of breath and the power of speech, so that she could not call out for assistance: and the four persons, that she followed into the court, going on, were out of sight almost immediately, owing to a bend in the entrance of the court.

A child having come to the door, who was unable to assist her, the man still remained, a few steps from the lady, looking at her, until the mistress of the house came, who helped her in, and, not having any suspicion of what had happened, immediately shut the door.

Mrs. *Smyth* was unable to speak for some time after she was brought into the house, and did not know that she was wounded until the effusion of blood discovered it.

Some Turlington's balsam, sent for from Mr. *L——*, a very respectable inhabitant of the court, was immediately applied to the wound, and the bleeding was thereby stopped.

She was stabbed by a sharp instrument, like a lancet or the blade of a pen-knife, which had penetrated, through a great number of foldings

foldings of her clothes, &c. into the upper part of her thigh. And there were also evident marks of the point of a sharp instrument on the whalebone of her stays, under her breast, where he struck her the first blow.

In consequence of the wound, bruise, and terror, she had several long and most dangerous illnesses, succeeding each other, for many months; her life being despaired of no less than seven different times.

It was so light that she could see his face perfectly, both at the door, and along Fleet-street; and she always declared she could know him again for years, and that she could also remember his voice.

She described him as a thin man, rather *below the middle size, pale, narrow face very remarkable, as well as his voice, in which there appeared to be a tremulous eagerness; a very ugly leg and foot, light dress, cocked hat flapped on one side and vulgar looking, without a stick, or any thing in his hands.*

This kind of cruelty was then so uncommon and unaccountable (as he made no attempt to rob her), that she was advised

vised by her friends not to take any public measures in regard to it, unless she heard of similar attempts made upon others.

The next attack, that has been publicly heard of, which however was not generally known until this present year, was upon Mrs. *Chippingdale*, who lives at Lord Viscount *Malden's*, in St. James's Place, being Lady *Malden's* own woman, or lady's maid.

Mrs. *Chippingdale* is a very good looking little woman, with black eyes, and an agreeable countenance, &c. She was then dressed in brown silk, &c.

On a Sunday evening, towards the latter end of May 1788, after ten o'clock, as Mrs. *Chippingdale* was returning home, a man overtook her, and, after a little time, began to use very improper and indecent language to her, to which she made no reply.

When she came into St. James's Place she was very uneasy, as there was no person passing, and the man continued to follow her, although she then desired him to leave her, and to go about his business.

Being much frightened, and apprehensive of turning the solitary corner of St.

James's Place, opposite to Lord Spencer's, she knocked at a door, the third or fourth from the corner, thinking to get quit of the man by that means.

But as soon as she knocked at the door, the man said something very shocking to her, and struck her violently upon her hip.

She cried out to him, " Good God ! what have you done ? you have certainly stabbed me ;" and was in great terror and pain.

The man folded his arms across his breast, and stood looking at her with much composure.

The family being gone out of town, and only a servant left in the house, he had chained the door, which he opened a little, but did not undo the chain.

Mrs. Chippingdale then entreated him to take her into the house to prevent her being murdered : but the servant, not knowing who it was, and intent only upon the preservation of his master's house, shut the door again.

During this time the man made off ; and then Mrs. Chippingdale went home to Lord Malden's.

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Some of his lordship's servants immediately went out after the fellow, who was not to be found; but they traced the blood to the door where she was wounded.

Mrs. Chippingdale was obliged to send for a surgeon to stop the effusion of blood and dress the wound; and was also ill for some time.

As the man had made no attempt to rob her, the same reasons that prevented Mrs. Smyth from taking some public steps on the occasion, also operated in the same manner on Mrs. Chippingdale.

The lateness of the night, and the darkness, prevented Mrs. Chippingdale from being able to distinguish this man's features, so as to be absolutely certain of knowing him again:—but to her he appeared to be about the *middle size*, seemed *pale*, rather *thin*, &c.

A very extraordinary attack was also made, about this time, upon a young woman named *Susan*——, servant to Mrs. *Colings*, glazier, in Jermyn-street.

Susan was a very young girl, but lusty, stout, fresh-coloured, and appeared as if she had just come out of the country :.... And was then dressed in white.

On a Sunday evening she went out upon some occasion, with the consent of her mistress, without a hat or cloak, and in Picadilly a man came up to her, and used very improper language to her, on which she desired him to go away, for she wanted to have nothing to say to him, and thought he was gone, as she did not see him : but turning a corner, opposite to Lord Melbourne's, in Piccadilly, the same man seized fast hold of her, and held her by main strength, until he bruised and hurt her excessively, and treated her with very scandalous indecency.

She screamed out three times as loud as she could, but no one came to her assistance.

When she came home she was hurt and bruised in a most shocking manner.

She describes this man as an *officer*, tall and stout, and is certain that he was in his *uniform*.

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The next that has been mentioned, in the same year, was a very unjustifiable and unhandsome insult upon Mrs. *Franklin*, lady of *Andrew Franklin*, Esq.

Not having seen her, we can only state, from report, that Mrs. *Franklin* is an agreeable, handsome, and amiable young lady, mild in her disposition, and very genteel in her person.

Mrs. *Franklin*, in the summer of 1788, as well as several times since, was most grossly insulted by a person who exactly answers the description of one of these wretches that wounded several ladies.

He followed her, and made use of the most insulting and indecent language, but did not cut or wound her, perhaps for want of a proper opportunity.

In the year 1789, several ladies were attacked and wounded; the first of whom was Mrs. *Sarah Godfrey*, of *Charlotte-street*, *Portland Place*.

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Mrs.

Mrs. *Godfrey* is a handsome woman, middle sized, blue eyes, fair complexion, good teeth, &c. and is a genteel figure. She was then dressed in white, &c.

In the month of May, 1789, as Mrs. *Godfrey* was walking from Bond-street to Leicester-square, between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, a man joined her, or came up to her, in Piccadilly, and, without speaking to her, sometimes went before her, sometimes behind her, and sometimes by her side; this he continued to do for a considerable distance, which surprised her not a little, as she had no recollection whatsoever of him, and she was confident he knew nothing of her.

When she came to her upholsterer's in Leicester-square, as she went into the door he spoke to her something very insulting and improper.

When she came out of the shop, to return home, the same man overtook her at the top of Leicester-street; he did not speak to her then, but persisted in following, going before, and accompanying her, until
she

she arrived near her own house.—He was then a little before her.

Being fearful of him, she hastened to her door, and, just as she had stepped on the first step, he advanced rapidly towards her, and instantaneously stabbed her in the upper part of the thigh, through all her cloaths, with a dagger, or some very sharp instrument, which he had in his hand.

He then walked away very deliberately, and with much composure, as if nothing at all had happened.

The lady fell, and fainted in the street, having lost a great quantity of blood: and, before she was recovered to her senses, the man was gone.

Mrs. Godfrey describes the man who wounded her as a person of *middle size*, of the appearance of a *gentleman*, of a fallow complexion, in *black cloaths*, his hair well dressed, with a cocked hat, and of the age of thirty or thereabouts.

The next, in 1789, was a Miss *Wheeler*, of Bennet-street, St. James's, sister to Mrs.

Franklin, the lady who had been most grossly insulted in the year 1788.

Miss *Kitty Wheeler* is a fine, lively, spirited, beautiful young lady.

On the night after the Spanish ambassador's gala, Miss *Wheeler* was at Ranelagh with her father, who having left her in order to get their carriage to go home, a man came up to her in the room, and made use of the most gross and indecent language directly to her.

She was extremely frightened, jumped up, and called for protection to several persons near her, when the fellow made off, and she saw no more of him that evening: but on the Sunday following, as she was walking in the Park with her sister, she saw the same man following her, and was much alarmed; however, as she expected to meet her father, she walked on.

Mr. *Wheeler* soon after coming up to them, she pointed out the man to him, and mentioned that it was the same who had insulted her at Ranelagh.

Mr. *Wheeler* advised his daughters to walk on before, and he would keep in
fight,

sight, to protect them, if the man should speak to them, or offer any insolence.

The same man followed them to Bennet-street, and then came up to them, and again spoke to them, and made use of very improper and indecent language, when their father laid hold on him; but a great crowd collecting, and Miss Wheeler, apprehensive that her father might be ill-treated, persuaded him to let the man go.

She afterwards saw the same fellow pass the windows of her father's house, and then likewise he made use of impertinent expressions to her and her sisters.

But this lady was not wounded.

Miss Wheeler describes this man as about five feet six or seven inches high, of a dark complexion, long nose and face, his features not irregular, hair inclined to curl, and of a form and make rather slender and thin.

Within a few weeks after this period of time, a *young woman*, whose name we have not been able to procure, but whose station in life was that of a servant, and her person *genteel, handsome, and well dressed*, was accosted by a man, who insisted to see her

home, which she could not prevent by any means in her power.

He accompanied her to her door, made use of very indecent language to her, and after she had knocked at the door of the house where she lived, in New Boswell-court, the man stabbed her in her hip, or the upper part of her thigh.

She fainted, and the man went away.

The poor girl was ill for some time afterwards: and describes the man that wounded her, as dressed in black, middle size, &c.

The next attack was upon Miss *Forster*, in September 1789.

Miss *Forster* is a handsome, elegant young lady, rather tall, black eyes, good skin, &c, and is sensible and intelligent.

As Miss *Forster* was returning from the Hay-market theatre, after the play was over, in September 1789, a man accosted her within a few doors of the house; he desired permission to call a coach, which she declined; he then offered to see her safe home, this she also declined; but he persisted in following and accompanying her, and made several attempts to com-
mence

mence a conversation, but she remained silent.

Continuing to follow her, she became distrustful of his intentions, and conceived a dislike to his looks.

She stopped suddenly, and hesitated for some time, whether she would not call for assistance and protection from two labouring men who then happened to be near. However she determined to walk home, without creating any alarm.

During this interval, the man looked her full in the face, in a manner that left her no doubt as to his person; for she had seen him often at the theatres and other public places.

She then went on, and again he followed her, until he uttered very indecent, scandalous language, such as shocked and amazed her; and, after a horrid oath, he struck her upon the hip.

This happened when she had reached Dean-street, or Macclesfield-street, near St. Ann's church, Soho.

Her astonishment was so great, that she could not call for assistance, until he had

gone several yards distance from her ; and she did not even know that she was wounded.

At last, having recovered strength enough to cry out for help, the two persons whom she had seen before came up ; she pointed out the man to them, who at that time was running down King-street ; but they could not overtake him, although they pursued him.

Miss *Forster* being unable to proceed, two gentlemen fortunately came up, and assisted in conducting her home, where she immediately fell into fits.

She was found to be desperately wounded, through all her cloaths, which were covered with blood ; and the effusion of blood was not much less than a quart.

Some time after this, being in company with another lady in the front boxes of Covent-garden theatre, the same person came in, and they both knew him immediately.

The ladies observed this to each other ; which, being perceived by him, he went out with an enraged look at her (Miss *Forster*)
and

and shut the door after him with great violence.

Upon this several gentlemen being made acquainted with these circumstances, followed him into the lobby, and insisted upon securing him, which produced some disturbance.

Upon giving his address, however, he was then permitted to retire, as the box-keepers refused to detain him without a warrant.

She afterwards met him in Fleet-street, when he stared her full in the face, grinned most horribly at her, and then made off.

Miss Forster describes this man as of a slender and thin make, about five feet six or seven inches high, features regular, long nose and face, of a dark complexion, with something of an eagerness of countenance, seemingly somewhat agitated, &c.

The next attack was upon Miss *Ann Frost*, of Jermyn-street.

Miss Frost is a tall genteel girl, with a pair of fine black eyes, an elegant person, brisk, lively, and agreeable.

On the ninth of November, 1789 (Lord Mayor's day), as she was returning from the city, about eleven o'clock at night, a man followed her, spoke to her, and uttered very shocking and indecent language.

She made use of every method in her power to get clear of him; but he continued to accompany her until she came home to Jermyn-street; and, as soon as she knocked at the door, he struck her, and then, upon the door being opened, made off.

When she went in, she found her cloaths cut, but she was not wounded.

She describes him very nearly in the same manner as the description given by Miss Forster and Miss Wheeler, as a middle-sized thin person, long nose and face, and a dark complexion, &c. and farther declares that she would know his voice.

About the latter end of October, 1789, Miss *Ann Morley*, daughter of Mr. *Morley*, No. 23, Charles-street, Westminster, was
wounded

wounded in a manner even more extraordinary than any other hitherto mentioned.

Miss *Ann Morley* is about 20 years old, rather below the middle size, dark, but very agreeable: she was then dressed in a white muslin gown, blue silk petticoat, green sash, &c.

On a Sunday evening, near about the last of October 1789, as Miss *Morley*, and Miss *Anderson* who lives in the same house, were returning home about seven o'clock, crossing the broad part of Whitehall into Parliament-street, they passed a tall man, standing by or near a woman. He left the woman and followed them.

He went first on one side of them, and then on the other, seeming to observe them with particular attention: then he pressed between them, and struck Miss *Morley* on the side or hip. She cried out, Good God! He struck her again with great force, and then looked at her very composedly. She then said to Miss *Anderson*, ' Good God! that man has struck me twice!' He then struck her a third time near the same place, and went away.

She was terrified exceedingly, and complained,

plained, all the way she went home, of being much hurt.

When she came into the house, there were no less than nine holes cut through her cloaths; and she had received *three wounds* in her back, near her loins.

Both these ladies describe this person as a tall man dressed in *black*, at least *six feet* high, *pale* or rather *fallow*, and of a *dark* complexion, with a *vicious ill look*, in *half-boots*: and of this being an exact description of him they are clear and positive.

Miss *Eleanor Dodson*, of Mount Row, Lambeth, beyond the turnpike on the right hand, was wounded about the beginning of November 1789.

Miss *Dodson* is about eighteen, tall and elegant in her person, light hair, large blue eyes, fair complexion, a very fine figure; extremely agreeable, discreet, and remarkably sensible.

Nearly about the first of November, 1789, Miss *Dodson* having been at the play (along with a young lady from the country, to which she was just returning,
and

and wished to see a play before she went back), conceived there would be no danger, as they intended to return in a coach; but when they came out of the house, they could not procure one immediately, and they resolved to walk along until they could get one.

A tall gentleman followed them from the theatre, and helped them across James-street. Miss Dodson then thanked him, and wished him a good night: but he continued to accompany them, and to force his conversation to Miss Dodson.

He persisted in walking along with them down St. Martin's Lane, towards Charing-cross.

For some time, at first, there was nothing improper in his language and conversation, but at last it became very rude. Miss Dodson repeatedly desired him to leave them; and at last told him, that if he continued to insult her, she would charge the watch with him, and she immediately called aloud for a coach.

She then imagined he had left them,
and

and was gone away, as she did not see him near them: but as she ran over the crossing of the street, opposite *Northumberland House*, he came suddenly up to her, and struck her a violent blow on the side or hip. She instantly screamed out, and the man went away.

No one came to her assistance, or seemed to notice her calling out for help; and it was then half an hour after eleven o'clock.

They went into the coach, which by this time had come up, and they thought they saw the man go into a long passage of a tavern or hotel next beyond the *Rummer* tavern, Charing-cross.

She felt herself in great pain, and complained much in the coach, thinking she was bruised with the blow; but when she went home, she found herself wounded, and bleeding very profusely.

She was stabbed through all her cloaths with some sharp instrument like the blade of a penknife, or long lancet.

The man did not molest the other lady.

These ladies describe the man as *tall*, at least *six feet* high, pale or fallow, and of a dark

dark complexion ; dressed in black, with remarkably long ruffles. His height can be better ascertained, in this instance, as Miss *Dodson* herself is very *tall*, and could not be mistaken, as he walked with her all the way from Covent-garden, along King-street, New-street, and down St. Martin's Lane, to Charing-cross ; and this description is confirmed by the other lady.

The next attack was made on two sisters, Miss *Elizabeth Baughan*, and Miss *Frances Baughan*, of Henrietta-street, Covent-garden.

The Miss *Baughans* are two very agreeable, genteel young ladies, blue eyes, fair complexion ; one is of the middle size, the other smaller and very pretty, sensible, amiable, candid, and open : they both were dressed in light blue silk.

On the evening of the seventh of December, 1789, about seven o'clock, Miss *Elizabeth Baughan*, in company with her sister, was passing along Bridge-street, Westminster, when a man came up to them, and accosted them in very obscene, infamous language.

They made no manner of answer, and endeavoured to avoid and get clear of him; but he continued to follow and accompany them, until they came into Parliament-street, when, for fear, they both began to run as fast as possible, and during that time he struck them both.

They were terrified and astonished with fear, which caused them to stop for some time, whilst the man looked at them very composedly, and then walked deliberately away.

To their great surprise they found their cloaths cut very much, and themselves slightly wounded.

The description given of this man by these two ladies agrees very nearly with that given by Miss Frost and Miss Wheeler. They received each only one blow, by which their cloaths were cut in a manner almost beyond conception.

But the enormities committed in the years 1788 and 1789, by these *detestable wretches*, these *Monsters* in human form, horrid and shocking as they were, have been exceeded by those of this year, 1790.

Thus

Thus audacity seems to have increased with their cruelty, and their thirst of blood to have become more keen, eager, and intense, from the increase of the quantity shed.

Until this year these ruffians seemed to confine their attacks to such unprotected females as were possessed of beauty, or something strongly resembling it, accompanied with some degree of elegance of person and dress.

This year, however, they have known no bounds. The beautiful have not been their only victims, nor have age, deformity, or even indigence, been a protection against their diabolical attacks.

Merely being a woman, alone, unprotected, and defenceless, has excited their infernal rage and thirst for blood: for females of all descriptions have, this year, been sacrificed to their savage vengeance.

The public offer of rewards, in large posting-bills on every corner of the streets, by some benevolent, humane, and active members of the community, for their discovery and apprehension of these ruffians,

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seemed

seemed only to stimulate and increase the audacity and number of their sanguine outrages.

These wretches commenced their diabolical attacks on the lovely and defenceless sex, this year, 1790, on the eighteenth of January, celebrated annually as the birthday of the Queen: and among the first victims was Miss *Felton*, at Mrs. *Walpole's*, in Dover-street.

Miss *Felton* is a very fine, tall, elegant young lady, rather pale, but beautiful and delicate.

This lady was attacked in such a manner, and was also terrified to such a degree, as to prevent her being able to ascertain or point out the person that committed the action.

She did not distinctly hear what he said to her; but such was the sharpness of the instrument wherewith she was cut, that an apple in her pocket was divided, and a slight wound made in her thigh through it, and through all her clothes.

We have to lament that the ruffian,
who

who made the brutal attack upon Miss *Felton*, has never been described.

On the same day, or rather evening, a desperate attack was made upon Miss *Tousant*, of Sackville-street, from which it was truly fortunate that her life was actually preserved.

Miss *Tousant* is young, about or rather below the middle size, with dark hair, fine large black eyes, her face rather full and plump, a good agreeable countenance, lively, pleasant, and very pretty. She was dressed in a kind of a dark coloured silk jacket and coat, &c.

She, along with her mother, sister, and two other ladies, had been in the gallery at St. James's, and were returning home, when a man came up to them, and began a conversation so improper as put them all to flight, as they wished to get clear of the fellow.

He however pursued them, came up with them more than once, and seemed to strike at Miss *Tousant* in particular several times.

When they reached their own house in Sackville-street, after they went in, they were astonished to find Miss *Tousant's* clothes which she had on all cut in pieces; and, upon examining her person and dress, several dreadful cuts were found in the back part of her stays, the whalebone of which alone prevented the instrument from wounding her in a very shocking manner.

But neither Miss *Tousant*, nor any of the other ladies along with her, were able to take such particular notice of this man's person as to describe him with sufficient exactness to bring him to light, or to identify him upon oath.

All they could recollect, in their terror and confusion, was, that he seemed to be of a middling stature, rather thin, and had something peculiar in his voice.

On that same night, after the ball, the clothes of Mrs. *Burney*, lady of Capt. *Burney*, of Norton-street, Portland Road, were also cut.

Mrs. *Burney* is young, fair, tall, elegant,
and

and agreeable ; and that evening was dressed in white.

She also had been in the gallery at St. James's ; and returning home, after the ball was broke up, walking up St. James's Street, along with Capt. *Burney* her husband, before they could get a coach she perceived her clothes were cut across her thigh.

In considering for a cause or motive why this should have been done, whether it might have been to cut her pocket, the lady observed, that if the intention of the person who cut her clothes were to cut off her pocket, it certainly was not only a *new method*, but, besides, was not likely to answer the purpose, as the *pockets were not carried in that situation*.

This attack however was the more singular, as Capt. *Burney* was along with his lady.

She has no recollection whatever of the person who cut her clothes.

On the same evening, two young ladies, of the name of *Porter*, of St. James's Street,

were attacked ; one of them indeed was wounded in a very desperate manner.

Miss *Sarah Porter* is young, rather tall for the middle size, dark hair and eyes, a good figure, mild, agreeable, genteel, and rather handsome.

Miss *Anne Porter* is also young, below the middle size, with fine black eyes, good skin, fine teeth, lively, sensible, delicate, and very pretty. She was dressed in crimson silk, &c.

Both these ladies, as well as their other two sisters, Miss *Martha* and Miss *Rebecca*, had, at several different times, particularly in Kensington Gardens, in Pall-mall, and in St. James's Street, been grossly insulted by a man, who came up to them, and addressed them in very improper, indecent, and obscene language ; this had caused them to recollect his person.

Miss *Anne* and Miss *Sarah Porter*, with another lady, having been in the gallery at the ball-room at St. James's Palace, on the birth night, the ball breaking up rather sooner than common, their father, who
was

was to come for them, had not arrived; and, as the distance to their house was so little, they concluded to walk home, not suspecting any danger.

As they went along, Miss *Anne Porter* observed her sister change colour and appear much agitated, and presently after saw a man following them, whom she conceived to be the person that had so frequently insulted them before in different places.

This man had struck Miss *Sarah Porter* a blow on the back part of her head. They both took notice of him, and made the best of their way home; but the man followed them very close, until they came to their door, when he struck Miss *Anne Porter* a violent blow on her hip.

He then went on to the next house, and immediately returned, and waited close behind them until the door was opened.

When they came into the passage, the man still remained at the door looking at them, until their brother asked them if that gentleman was along with them. Miss *Sarah* answered, No; shut the door

against the fellow, little suspecting that the villain had wounded her sister.

They were both terrified extremely, but Miss *Anne Porter* was unable to utter a word for a few minutes; yet had no idea that she was wounded until the great effusion of blood discovered it, by which the whole family were greatly alarmed.

A surgeon, Mr. *Tomkins*, of Park Place, St. James's Street, was immediately sent for, who dressed the wound, which was upwards of *six inches long*, and more than *three inches deep*.

Fortunately for Miss *Sarah Porter*, the blow she received upon her head was prevented from doing her much injury, by its oblique direction, and by the cushion she had on.

But the wound her sister received was extremely dangerous and alarming; and must have been made with some instrument of uncommon sharpness.

The man might have been secured with the greatest facility, had they been able to call for assistance, or had the family suspected
ed

ed any thing of the horrid attack, for he remained looking at them after they were in the passage.

Both ladies agree, that it was the same man who had so often insulted them before, and whose person they had at those times been able to take particular observation of.

They describe him as *middle sized*, rather *slender* and *thin*, a face sharp, thin, and remarkable; pale countenance, and with a tremulous agitated voice: they had observed him in different dresses.

From these remarkable transactions of this memorable evening, viz. four different attacks on four different parties of ladies, in as many different streets, at the same period of time, we may conclude, to a certainty of conviction, that there must be a GANG, or, at all events, there must certainly be SEVERAL, of these horrid *Monsters* in the shape of men.

In a very short time after this, as a maid servant of Mrs. Gordon, a lady of fortune, was standing at her mistress's door one evening,

evening, a man coming past seized her by her arms behind, and seemed to kick her with his knee several times, damning her all the while.

He then let her go, and walked deliberately away.

The young woman was terrified, and unable to call for assistance, or even to speak for some time.

When she recovered from her surprise, she found herself dreadfully wounded in several places in her thigh, by some instrument that must have been fastened to the man's knee.

As far as she could recollect, she thinks the man was of a middling stature, &c.

The next attack was upon Mrs. *Allan*, daughter-in-law of Mr. *Allan*, plumber, next door to the *Brown Bear*, Piccadilly.

Mrs. *Allan* is a married lady, about thirty-four years of age, rather small, agreeable, and well looking: and was dressed in light blue silk, &c.

About the latter end of last January, Mrs. *Allan*, with her mother and sister,
were

were going from their own home, to see an acquaintance in Vine-street, on a Sunday evening, exactly at six o'clock.

A man came up to them in Piccadilly, before they came to Air-street, with a small parcel in his hand. He continued to accompany them, sometimes a little behind, sometimes before, and sometimes by their side.

They went through the court leading from Piccadilly into Vine-street, when he pushed hard against Mrs. *Allan*, which forced her against the railing, and almost threw her down; but he said nothing to them, and they, suspecting no harm, thought it had been done by accident.

But, when they arrived at their friend's house in Vine-street, Mrs. *Allan* found that her gown and the rest of her clothes were very much cut, even into threads, by some sharp instrument.

However, neither she nor the other ladies can form any recollection of the man so as to be able to identify his person upon oath. As they had no suspicion of him when they saw

saw him, they consequently took no particular notice of him.

Very nearly about the same time, viz. the last of January, or beginning of February, 1790, an attack was made upon a lady even in the play-house, during the performance.

This lady's name is *Drummond*: her house is No. 9, Bolton Row, Piccadilly.

Mrs. *Drummond* is tall and genteel, about thirty, blue eyes, light hair, and fair complexion, &c. She was dressed in very rich satin, between a lead and a salmon colour, &c.

This lady was in the pit at the theatre last winter, some time after the Queen's birth-night, nearly about the beginning of February; and while she sat there, attending to the performance, a little man was very busy about her.

She had no suspicion that he was doing any injury to her; but he continued to be bustling near her, in a manner rather disagreeable,

agreeable, and sometimes pressing against her she thought unnecessarily.

After she came out of the house she was extremely surpris'd, as well as mortified, to find her clothes all cut through, and entirely spoiled and useless.

Her gown and petticoat were all in shreds; her handkerchief, and even her hair, was cut and hacked in an unaccountable manner: but she was not wounded.

She describes the man as a thin person, rather below the middle size, narrow face, pale, and with rather a prominent nose. She is certain that no one else did the action.

About the middle of March, 1790, or a little after, a very extraordinary attack was made upon Mrs. *Payne*, at the Earl of *Howe's*, in Grafton-street, Berkeley-square.

Mrs. *Payne* is the Countess of *Howe's* woman, or lady's maid.

She is not young, her person rather plain, and she is a little woman: but she is agreeable,

agreeable, and her character unexceptionable.

On a Sunday evening, after ten o'clock, in March last, a man came up to Mrs. Payne, in Brook-street, Grosvenor-square, and offered to see her home. She made him no answer, but he continued to walk with her along Bond-street, &c. until she came to Grafton-street, making love to her all the way with rather uncommon energy.

In Grafton-street she began to be very uneasy and fearful, as no people were passing, and several times requested him to leave her ; but he continued to accompany her.

At Lord Howe's door she begged him to go away, as she was then at home.

He made answer—" that it was impossible, for that was an empty house ;" and, as she was going up the steps, seized her by the shoulders, or upper part of her arms behind, and continued kicking her with his knee up the steps, until the door

was opened, making use of the most horrid language and imprecations all the time.

One of his expressions was, "D—n you, " you b—h, I would enjoy a particular " pleasure in murdering you, or in seeing " you murdered, and in shedding your " blood !"

When she went into the house the fellow made off, and could not be found afterwards, although the other servants went immediately in search of him.

After Mrs. Payne was in the house, she found herself wounded in the upper part of her thigh, through all her clothes, which not only hurt, but surprised her extremely, as she could not recollect that the man touched her with his hands, or any other part, excepting his knee, to which some sharp instrument or weapon must have been fastened that wounded her.

Mrs. Payne was ill for some time, in consequence of the wound and the fright ; and describes the man that attacked her as rather above the middle size, in a cocked hat with a cockade, dark clothes, which she conceived

conceived to be blue, with white facing or edging, like some of the naval uniforms, and his person was well dressed, &c.

The next attack was upon Mrs. *Blaney*, of Bury-street, St. James's, a married lady.

Mrs. *Blaney* is young, a little above the middle size, blue eyes, a lively, sensible, spirited, and agreeable woman, dresses well, and of a good appearance and figure: she was that evening in a rich striped satin dress, &c.

On Sunday evening, the 28th of March, 1790, as Mrs. *Blaney*, with another lady of her acquaintance, was returning towards home, about eight o'clock, they were accosted by a man in Bond-street, who made use of very impertinent and indecent language to them, and also trod upon her heels.

This man, it seems, varied his attempts to enter into conversation with Mrs. *Blaney*, having first accosted her in the language of polite gallantry, and, when he found that ineffectual, proceeded to the most shocking obsceneness with equal ill success, for

Mrs.

Mrs. Blaney either was silent or rejected all his offers : nor would she permit him to hand her across Piccadilly when he proposed and urged it.

Upon her knocking at her door in Bury-street, the man instantly stabbed her through all her clothes, and even through a number of foldings of a letter which happened to be doubled in her pocket, into the upper part of her thigh.

He then walked off with much composure down Bury-street.

The ladies were both so terrified and astonished that they had not power to call out for help. And Mrs. Blaney had not the least suspicion of being stabbed or wounded, until she found the effusion of blood after she went into her house; as he seemed only to have struck her with violence upon the hip, or upper part of the thigh.

In this case a surgeon, Mr. Nailor of Jermyn-street, was also obliged to be applied to; and although the wound was not found to be dangerous, yet it was considerable.

D

Mrs.

Mrs. *Blaney* is a woman of becoming spirit and resolution, sensible, intelligent, and clever.

She certainly had a better opportunity than common to take particular notice of the person of the man that wounded her, and her description was accordingly very particular.

She says, that he was in person *above* the middle size, being at least *five feet ten* inches high, *dark* complexion, *stout, full* and *well made*, with every appearance of a gentleman, well dressed, in a blue coat, with buff waistcoat and breeches, a cocked hat with a cockade, of the age of thirty-five; and was capable of talking very handsomely, as well as very infamously.

Another attack, much about this time, was made upon a maid servant in Holborn.

It was in the evening, as she was returning home from some place to which she had been sent, a man overtook her, and, after insisting to see her home, as soon as

she came to her door, swore terribly at her, and struck her; then walked away.

She was exceedingly terrified, and, after she went into the house, found that her clothes were cut through; but she was not wounded.

The description of the man who struck her corresponds with that given by Mrs. Blaney, being that of a tall, stout gentleman-like person, of a dark complexion, with a cocked hat and cockade, &c.

The next attack was also made upon a servant girl who lived in Westminster.

Some time in April, 1790, as she was going about her mistress's business, four men overtook her in the Strand, in the evening about dusk, and one of them held out a nosegay, and requested her to smell to it; this however she declined.

He presented it to her again, and began to be rather troublesome; when she, thinking to get clear of them (for there were four men in company), suffered him to hold the nosegay (which was an artificial one)

to her face, and she immediately felt herself wounded just under the eye, with a sharp instrument concealed in the nose-gay.

The men then went away and left her bleeding.

Her wound was very bad; but as there were four men together, she cannot identify either of them, as they all set up a loud laugh, and immediately made off.

The next was *Susannah Thompson*, wife of Mr. *Thompson*, in Long-acre.

Mrs. *Thompson* is a very good looking plain woman, with every proper appearance of a tradesman's wife.

It was some time in April last also that Mrs. *Thompson* went to call upon an acquaintance, in the evening, when a fellow came up to her, very near the house she was going to in Princess-street, and, after a few improper and impertinent expressions to her, as soon as she knocked at the door, struck her violently on the hip, and went away.

She

She found her clothes cut through, and herself slightly wounded ; but she could not identify nor recollect the person of the man.

The next attack was upon a young woman named *Rebecca Lohr*, servant to Mr. *Millar*, bookbinder, in St. Martin's Lane, next house below St. Martin's church.

This girl is about twenty years of age, middle sized, very plain, long nose, thin face, and a pale complexion.

On the nineteenth of April last, about ten minutes after eight o'clock in the morning, as she was going for rolls, a man came up to her, and took hold of her hand, which she snatched away. The man instantly struck or clawed her with his other hand, with something that seemed to be in it or fastened to it, along her arm, from her elbow to her wrist ; and, as soon as he had struck or clawed that arm, he immediately cut and clawed the other arm in the same manner.

This was done opposite the oil-shop in the Strand, next to Charing-cross.

He then made off directly, and she went on to the baker's, in Northumberland-street, at the corner of the passage leading to Craven-street, where she bled very much: and, after she returned home, her arm continued to bleed considerably until near one o'clock.

She was so terrified, that she could not recollect his person sufficiently to describe it, nor should she know him again.

All that she remembers is, that he had on blue and white stockings.

The next attack was upon a young woman, named *Jane Hurd*, servant to Mrs. *Jefferson*, No. 23, Edgeware-row, and lives now at the corner of South-street, and South Audley-street, with her sister, who lodges there.

Jane Hurd is a stout well-grown young woman, of about twenty-three or twenty-four years of age, dark complexion, &c.

On

On Monday, the 26th of April, 1790, half an hour after eight o'clock in the evening, *Jane Hurd* was sent by her mistress for some radishes; she had only a few doors to go.

As she returned, just by her mistress's door a man met her, and asked her if she would have some gin; she made no answer: he repeated the same question; and she desired him to let her alone, and to go about his business.

He then damned her, with horrid imprecations, and struck her a violent blow on her breast.

She screamed out, and the fellow ran away.

Her mistress came to the door, and brought the girl into the house; when it was found that she had received a severe cut across the breast.

The instrument cut through the strong whalebone of her stays, through a large iron wire also, and gave her a wound near two inches long, which her mistress with great care dressed and cured.

This young woman describes the fellow that wounded her to be *middle sized*, but *stout*, with a *full face* and *large nose*; with a great coat on; but could not remember his features so perfectly as to identify him upon oath, although she saw him very plainly.

About this time, likewise, a young woman, lately from the country, servant to *two single ladies*, in Greville-street, Holborn, was attacked.

She had been sent out, on some occasion, between eight and nine o'clock in the evening; and when she returned, a man came up to her, just by her mistress's door, and, having said something to her which she did not well understand, struck her a blow on, or just above, the hip.

When she came into the house, she found her gown, petticoats, and the lower part of her stays cut quite through the whalebone; but she was not wounded.

She saw the man perfectly well, and says that he was a very tall person, dressed in black, &c.; this she is positive of.

About this time an accident, of so singular a nature, happened to a young woman named *Green*, servant to Col. *Gotbert Ironsides*, No. 54, St. James's Street, that if it is not exactly of the same description with the others that have been related here, yet it is so extraordinary, as to be well entitled to particular attention.

Mrs. *Green* is from the country, and unacquainted with the town; about the middle size, dark hair and complexion; intelligent and sensible, and about twenty or twenty-three years of age; remarkably well dressed for her situation in life.

On the twenty-seventh day of April, 1790, between twelve and one o'clock in the day, she had been in the carriage with her mistress, who set her down somewhere, as she thinks, near Coventry-street, or Silver-street, she is not certain which, in order to go to the Strand, to which place she was sent; but, not knowing the town, she lost her way, and, to avoid the dirt of a coach that was passing through a narrow part of the street in which some rubbish

was

was laid, she stood up close to the door of a house, and immediately received so violent a blow on her face, directly across her eyes, that she was stunned, and almost senseless.

She was assisted into a shop, and from thence conveyed, in a coach, home to St. James's Street.

She was very ill, and was obliged to apply for the assistance of a surgeon, Mr. *Tomkins*, of Park Place; but she cannot give the least account of the person that struck her, or by what means she received the blow.

On Thursday morning, the sixth day of May last, at the early hour of eight o'clock, or a little after, a young woman, servant to Mr. *Vickery*, perfumer in Cheapside, was wounded by a villain, within two or three doors of her master's house.

She was scratched, clawed, or cut, from her shoulder to her elbow, by some instrument that seemed to be fastened to the hand or fingers of the man that clawed her,

her, who spoke not a word; but as soon as he had done it, went away immediately.

The poor young woman's arm bled very much.

She describes the man that wounded her as a *very short* fellow, in a *shabby* dress, and says that the instrument appeared to have *five prongs* or blades.

Of this description of the man's person she is *clear* and *positive*, as she took particular notice of him.

About the beginning of May, 1790, an attack was made upon a woman named *Elizabeth Davis*, of Clark's Court, Holborn, wife of — *Davis*, a labouring man.

Elizabeth Davis is about forty years old, short, thick, and perfectly plain : her dress too corresponded with her person and business, which is that of a washer-woman (some degrees below a laundress), being a thread-bare cloak, which had been red,
and

and the rest of her clothing in the same style.

On or about the fifth day of May, 1790, on a Wednesday, Mrs. *Davis*, returning home from work, at ten o'clock at night, a man accosted her in Chancery-lane, and enquired of her where she was going.

She made him no answer: but, upon his repeating the same question several times, she at length replied, that she was going home.

He followed or accompanied her along Holborn, until she came nearly opposite to the Bull and Gate Inn, when he requested her to smell to a nosegay which he had in his hand, and she thinks the nosegay was an artificial one.

She refused to smell to it. He repeated his request with urgency, and, upon her refusal again, he gave her a violent blow across the thigh, and immediately struck her another blow across the breast with all his force; and in the confusion which this occasioned he made off.

She

She was alarmed and frightened very much, and fainted when she got home. This called several persons about her to endeavour to recover her, who then perceived that her clothes were cut, and that she was wounded in the thigh.

She said that she should know him again so well as to be able to identify his person, which she described, *at that time*, as tall, &c. with a great coat on, and a high cocked hat with a cockade, striped waistcoat, white stockings, his hair frized at the sides in a bush, plaited behind and turned up, and with a nosegay in his hand.

Among the last of the accounts of these most extraordinary and unaccountable attacks, the veracity of which may be depended upon, and none else are inserted here, is that made upon a young woman named *Mary Carter*, servant to Mr. *Lennard*, No. 24, Conduit-street, one of the messengers of the *Marquis of Salisbury*, and now with her father at a turner's, in Silver-street, Golden-lane.

Mary

Mary Carter is about nineteen years of age, middle sized, plain in her person, with a pale and sickly countenance; a simple, artless girl.

On a Saturday night, the first of May, 1790, *Mary Carter* being sent to the public-house, at the corner of Conduit-street (just after the watch was set), in the evening, to order some beer, a man came up to her and insisted upon seeing her home. This she declined, but he put her hand under his arm and held it, whether she would or not.

He then began to use very indecent language to the girl, and when she came to the door of her master's house, he swore, damn'd, used horrid imprecations, and struck her a violent blow on the side, then looked at her and went away.

When the girl came in she was extremely terrified, and her gown was cut for above three or four inches on the side of her breast, by a sharp instrument, which was prevented doing her farther injury by a very strong pair of stays.

This

This was on a Saturday evening, and she says the man was *very tall*, being at least *six feet* high, with his hat *flapped* over his face, &c.

This poor girl was peculiarly unfortunate, for, on the third of May, the Monday evening following the first attack, only one day, Sunday intervening, being sent out for something that was wanted in the house, before she got to the corner of the street, the very same man that attacked her on the Saturday night, or a man very nearly resembling him, seized her fast by the mouth with one of his hands, seeming to stick his nails into her lips to prevent her calling out, and with the other hand, on which some instrument appeared to be fastened, began to cut or claw the fleshy part of her arm, but spoke not a word to her.

She, struggling hard, got out of his hands, and ran home, whilst the man went up Great George-street, towards Hanover-square.

The

The young woman was exceedingly terrified, and fell into fits as soon as she got into the house.

Her arm also was cut in thirty or forty places, and bled very considerably.

This man she likewise describes as *very tall*, being *six feet* or *upwards* in height, with his hat flapped, &c. and *this description was corroborated* by *that* of the *watchman*, of whom the persons sent after him enquired when they pursued him into Great George-street, as the *watchman* said, that he observed such a man, *remarkably tall*, being at least *six feet high*, go very fast by him up the street towards the square.

This last attack was attended with circumstances so extraordinary, that Lady *Salisbury* sent the young woman, and Mr. Lennard her master, to Mrs. *Smyth* (lady of Dr. *Smyth*, Rathbone-place), who had been first attacked, to take her advice how to proceed. And it appears that Mrs. *Smyth* advised them to give information both to Mr. *Angersteen*, and at the *Public Office*,

Office, Bow-street, which they immediately did.

An attack was made upon a young woman named *Jane Hooper*, servant to *David Godfrey*, Esq. on the Terrace, in the Adelphi.

Jane Hooper is about thirty years old, middle sized, blue eyes, fair complexion, and well looking : she was dressed in salmon coloured Irish poplin.

On a Sunday evening, in the beginning of May last, between eight and nine o'clock, as she was going along Vigo-lane, towards Bond-street, a man passing her struck her with something on the thigh, and instantly went away.

She was very much frightened, as it cut through all her clothes, quite across, near two feet in length.

When she came to Mr. *Trenchard's*, No. 22, in Bond-street, her agitation was so great that she fainted.

But this young woman cannot give the least description of the man that cut her clothes.

E

The

The last alarming and dangerous attack we have heard of, was upon *Mary Fisher*, who keeps a cook's shop in Pye-street, Westminster, wife of — Fisher, one of the coal meters, at the Coal Meter's Office, at the bottom of Northumberland-street.

Mrs. Fisher is a very plain, poor, middle-sized, old woman, turned of forty, and was very meanly dressed.

On a Saturday night, about the middle of May 1790, about eleven o'clock, on her return home, as she was coming past Charing-cross, with a basket of eggs in one hand, and a piece of beef under the other arm, she saw *three men* coming along, and she stepped aside, to keep out of their way, for fear of her eggs being broke; but one of them struck her in the face, without the least provocation, or even saying a single word, with something he had in his hand, which knocked her down, and cut her face dreadfully in three or four places; and as soon as she got up, another of the same men came back a few steps, struck

struck her on the side, and knocked her down a second time ; then they all three set up a loud laugh, and made off.

She called out, and people came round her ; but the men were gone, and of their persons she has no recollection.

She was very shockingly wounded and disfigured, and was attended by a *surgeon*, Mr. *Harris*, whose residence is in New Palace-yard.

We shall conclude this part, viz. the narrations of this very extraordinary business, with an account of another method of attack, certainly equally uncommon, but by no means of equal danger with those already related.

It was upon Mrs. *Smyth*, the very lady upon whom this novel species of barbarity was first exercised.

This lady's person and appearance have already been delineated.

On Saturday afternoon, between seven and eight o'clock, on the fifteenth day of

May last, as Mrs. *Smyth*, with her maid, was returning from Covent-garden market, *three men*, in the dress, but without any other qualification of gentlemen, met her in King-street, opposite the linen-draper's; and one of them, coming up to her, suddenly pushed his *thumb nail* with great force into her upper lip, just under her nose.

This it seems they were enabled to do, as she was looking, a little on one side, at the goods in the shop-window, without suspecting any ill.

They all immediately broke out into a *loud horse laugh*, and walked away.

They cut her lip, and hurt her considerably, as the man's thumb nail was sharp and long.

This must be considered the more remarkable and aggravating, as the same lady was the first wounded by one of the *monsters*, nearly lost her life in consequence, and, from some other circumstances, was certainly known to the *gang*.

Mrs. *Smyth* describes the man who performed

performed this exploit, to be about *forty* years old, *rather tall, stout*, and *full faced*, with *fair hair* well dressed, very full at the sides, like a wig, a round hat, light brown clothes, &c.

The other two men, his companions, appeared younger, and smaller; but she did not take particular notice of them.

The reason that the *persons* and the *dresses* of the ladies and other women attacked and wounded, have been so particularly described, is, *not to ascertain* any probable, nor even possible *cause* or *motive* for this cruel, strange, and unprecedented business (for, indeed, that is *not to be accounted for*); but it is to point out, and prove, to every considerate and thinking person, that these barbarities have *not* proceeded from any one of the causes or motives that have ever as yet been assigned for them; such as, thieves, &c. attempting to cut off ladies pockets; silk weav-

ers cutting muslins, and muslin weavers cutting silks, and fattins, to promote their own manufacture, and in revenge to the wearers, &c. &c. For the *motive* is still involved in mystery, or must originate in some shocking and unnatural depravity, to which certain degenerated wretches in the shape of men may possibly be addicted.

Beyond all doubt there may have been several, perhaps many, more of the *fair sex*, than those that are mentioned herein, that have been attacked and wounded by these malevolent, sanguinary *monsters*; but they have not as yet come to our knowledge.

Certainly, very ample and convincing proofs are here produced to ascertain that such actions have been committed, and that such wretches as these now denominated *monsters* do actually exist. It is sufficient for us to declare, that all the instances herein related are strictly true, without exaggeration or embellishment.

HAVING

HAVING related, with candour and strict veracity, the different outrages and enormities committed by these detestable wretches, now known by the appellation of *monsters*, we shall next proceed to state and mark out, in regular progression, the various steps that have been taken in order to trace, discover, and apprehend the perpetrators of these uncommon acts of cruelty, and for the protection of that *sex*, which it is the *duty*, and ought to be the *pleasure*, and *pride*, of every *man*, to support and cherish, as well as to render happy and secure.

The first step that was taken, to prevent these horrid depredations on the *female sex*, by endeavouring to discover and secure the perpetrators, was by an information, lodged at the Public Office of Police in Bow-street, by Mr. Porter, soon after his daugh-

ter was wounded; which however proved fruitless, and produced only this effect: that several persons who were suspected came there upon the first requisition, and were cleared by Miss Porter as soon as she saw them.

All this however was done rather in privacy, and very few knew, or at that time had heard, any thing of this very extraordinary business.

But in consequence of the following paragraph in the Morning Chronicle, of Saturday the third day of April, 1790, viz.

Morning Chronicle, April 3, 1790.

“ON Monday* evening, as a lady who keeps a house in Bury-street was walking with an acquaintance towards home, about eight o'clock, they were accosted by a man who appeared to be an officer,

* This was a mistake; for the circumstance happened on Sunday evening, the 28th of March.

who

who made use of very impertinent and indecent language, and followed them home. On the lady's knocking at her door, the man drew a knife from his pocket, and thrust it through her petticoats, so far as to make an incision in her thigh. The ladies, terrified, suffered the man to walk off, which he did with much composure down Bury-street. The lady's wound is not dangerous. This is most probably the miscreant whom we have noticed more than once for similar instances of brutality."

An advertisement appeared in the same paper, viz. the Morning Chronicle, on Wednesday the seventh of the same month, as follows :

Morning Chronicle, April 7, 1790.

" A C A R D.

" THE lady who keeps a house in Bury-street, and was stabbed by a ruffian at her

own door, on Monday * the 29th of March, as mentioned in the Morning Chronicle of Saturday last, is earnestly requested by a married lady of character, who was also stabbed by a man in the very same manner at her door, to favour her with her address, which may be left at the office of this paper, where her address is also deposited, in order that they may ascertain whether both have been stabbed by the same person, and that some method may be devised to bring him to proper punishment. The married lady, that he first stabbed, very nearly lost her life in consequence of the atrocious attempt upon it."

" Rathbone Place, April 5."

This card proved to be inserted by Dr. Smyth, whose lady had been first wounded, as the following addresses were left at the office of the Morning Chronicle, and were interchanged, viz.

Mrs. Smyth, at Dr. Smyth's, Stephen-street, Rathbone-place; wounded in May 1788.

* This however happened on Sunday evening, the 28th of March, as has been already observed.

Mrs.

Mrs. *Blaney*, No. 4, Bury-street, St. James's; wounded in March 1790.

In consequence of this, there were several interviews between Mrs. Smyth and Mrs. *Blaney*; and the conclusion was, *that they were wounded by different men.*

It appears also, that Dr. Smyth exerted himself very strenuously, to discover the perpetrators of these unaccountable outrages; and that he mentioned and urged the matter strongly at the office of the *Morning Herald*; in consequence of which, several letters about that time, under the head of A MONSTER, appeared in that paper.

In the *Morning Herald* of April 8, was the following:

Morning Herald, April 8, 1790.

“ A M O N S T E R.

“ *To the Bow-street Justices.*

“ Gentlemen,

“ THOUGH I believe that I am not justifiable in impeaching your vigilance,
which

which I understand has been tolerably employed, though not successfully directed towards discovering the MONSTER who has inhumanly maimed several beautiful women ; still I think your subordinates have not shewn that SKILL, which on less important occasions has manifested itself, to bring culprits to justice.

“ If I am properly informed, the person of this unnatural villain has been described, and you are furnished with a *train of leading circumstances* necessary to detect him. In consequence of this, a few innocent men have been brought before you, who were instantly discharged, when their persons could not be identified.—From being disappointed in these instances, it seems as if your *delicacy* had taken the alarm, and that you thought it an awkward thing to lead others into the same situation. But there is no MAN, when he reflects on the motives that have excited your zeal (though taken before you, for the purpose of being identified), but must applaud your activity, and approve of your conduct;

conduct ;—therefore the *slightest* suspicion AUTHORISES you, on a business of such a nature, to have any person, no matter how exalted his rank, brought before you, and the injured parties sent for.—I confess I have been among those who were taken to the office on suspicion ; and so far from conceiving myself insulted, I think you are intitled to my best thanks, as an individual, for using such efforts to discover so unaccountable and sanguinary a ruffian.

“ I shall conclude by observing, that on a business of so dark and mysterious a nature, you should pay regard to ANONYMOUS information ; and I will venture to say, that no gentleman will be offended, if *innocent*, whose attendance at your office shall, on such occasion, be required.

“ X. Y.”

“ *St. James's Square, April 7.*”

The next that appeared was in the same paper of the 9th of April.

Morning

Morning Herald, April 9, 1790.

" A MONSTER.

" Mr. EDITOR,

" IT is with great pleasure I perceive, that a paper of the extensive circulation of the HERALD has taken up the cause of the FAIR; as I have no doubt, if it perseveres, that it will prove the best instrument to bring the unnatural villain to justice, who has now for two years wounded several ladies with impunity. From what your correspondent X. Y. mentions in this day's HERALD, he seems to hint that the MONSTER is known to the *Runners of Bow-Street*.—If this is the case, I must suppose, that their unwillingness to bring him to justice must proceed from one of two causes, viz. that they are unacquainted with the Act known by the name of the *Coventry* or *Black Act*, which makes the crime of maiming, with an intent to disfigure, a capital offence, and of course entitles them to a premium in case of the culprit's conviction; or, that they wait for a *reward* to be offered, as a stimulus to

their activity.—Now, as it is not likely that any reward will be offered, I cannot think so poorly of the gallantry of the nation as to believe, that any of the officers who may detect the Russian would not be immediately made *independent* by a voluntary subscription from the Public.

"*Lombard-Street, April 8.* SIFT."

Another appeared on the 10th, as follows:

Morning Herald, April 10, 1790.

"A MONSTER.

“LETTER III.

“MR. HERALD,

“ UNTIL your known authenticity stamped credit on the report that there existed a MONSTER, who felt a horrible gratification in maiming the most beautiful part of the creation, I can assure you, that there were several even otherwise credulous people, who imagined the whole a fiction.—I must confess I admire and applaud the steps you have taken in this business ; and also highly approve your strictures

strictures on the *supineness* of the *Bow-Street Runners*, and your advice to the *Magistrates*, which were both sensible and humane.—But that human nature should not be too much degraded by the supposition that *two* such wretches exist, as the villain you have described, I refer you to the following beautiful women, whom he has wounded, all of whom agree in their description of his person :

“ Mrs. SMYTH, wounded about a year since, in Fleet-Street.

“ *Maimed since the QUEEN’s Birth-Day.*

“ Miss PORTER, St. James’s Street.

“ Miss TOUSSAINT, Sackville-Street.

“ Mrs. BLANEY, Bury-Street.

“ * The servant maid of Mr. COLLINS, glazier, Jermyn-Street. Besides several others.

“ M. T. H.”

“ *Bloomsbury-Square, April 9.*”

Thus it was that this very extraordinary business became publicly known ; and by

* This happened about the time that Mrs. Smyth was wounded.

the

the above letters the appellation of MONSTER was first introduced, which has been universally adopted to distinguish the perpetrators of these new kind of sanguinary depredations.

The letters just mentioned also produced the following, viz.

“ PUBLIC OFFICE, BOW-STREET.

“ *Saturday, April 10, 1790.*

“ Two anonymous Letters signed A. Z. having been received by us, importing, that a Gentleman of some rank in life was the assassin who had lately cut and wounded several ladies in the streets; and several paragraphs having appeared in the Morning Herald, reflecting on this office *for want of activity in the Officers belonging to it, by not apprehending the said Gentleman, though very well known to them:* We think it our duty to acquaint A. Z. and the public, that the Gentleman alluded to (in consequence of a letter sent him) appeared before us this morning; when Miss PORTER, one of the ladies wounded, being present, declared upon her oath, *that he*

F *was*

was not the person who wounded her, nor had he the least resemblance whatever of him.

SAMPSON WRIGHT.
N. BOND."

By this it appears that some anonymous letters had also been sent to the magistrates, with a description of several suspected persons, and among them a person of some rank in life in the Temple.

On Wednesday, April 14, Mrs. Smyth, the lady whom we have already mentioned to have been first wounded, being at Robins's Auction, saw the man who had stabbed her. She immediately mentioned it to the women of the rooms, to a lady that sat beside her, and to her husband, when he came for her; who caused the man to be traced home, and communicated the whole to Mr. Addington at Bow-street.

Mr. Addington proposed for Miss Porter (another young lady who had also been wounded) and Mrs. Smyth to accompany him to this person's shop next day; but Mrs. Smyth consulting her friends on the occasion, it was thought more proper and fair, that Mrs. Smyth should point him

out amongst a number of persons when called upon for that purpose.

Miss Porter accompanied Mr. Addington on Thursday to the man's house, and said she did not think him the person that stabbed her, although he had a strong resemblance of him.

Mrs. Smyth, however, still insisted that he was the man who had wounded her.

On Saturday, April the seventeenth, a reward was offered by subscription * by

* *THE MONSTER.—A REWARD.*

Lloyd's Coffee-house, April 17.

This is to give notice to the Public in general, that a Subscription is opened at this house, for paying a reward for apprehending that **INHUMAN MONSTER**, whoever he may be, who has of late so frequently wounded several young women; the whole of which, whatever it may amount to, shall be paid to the person or persons who shall apprehend the said offender, and prosecute him to conviction.

The following Gentlemen have subscribed:

£. s.		£. s.	
J. J. Angerstein	- 5 5	John Wombwell, of	
George Peters	- - 5 5	St. James's Street	5 5
Thomas Fraser	- 5 5	William Cazalett	- 5 5
W. M.	- - - 5 5	Frederick Pigou, jun.	5 5
John Nesbitt	- - 5 5	Neil Jameison	- - 5 5
Samuel Thornton	- 5 5	N. Modigliani	- 5 5
Robert Woodmas	- 5 5	George Lemprini	5 5
F. S. Secretan	- - 5 5	John Meyer	- - 5 5

F 2

a num-

a number of public-spirited gentlemen, for apprehending the man who committed these horrid deeds; which reward was evidently promoted, perhaps principally, if not entirely occasioned by Dr. Smyth's exertions to discover the perpetrators of this novel species of barbarity.

On Sunday the magistrates sent to request Mrs. Smyth to attend at Bowstreet on Monday forenoon, the 19th of April, to see the man (who was not in custody).

Dr. Smyth then furnished them with the names of twelve or fifteen ladies, &c. and engaged himself to give notice to Miss Godfrey (a lady of fashion in Portman-square), who was said to be of the number that had been wounded by some *Monsters*, for it is evident there are several.

Dr. Smyth then called himself upon Miss Touffaint, Miss Porter, Mrs. Walpole, and Miss Godfrey; but being informed by Mr. Godfrey, that his sister had not been attacked, after much difficulty he found it was a Mrs. Godfrey, of

Charlotte-Street, Portland-Place ; and, in consequence of her requesting Dr. Smyth to stay to accompany her to Bow-Street, he waited above an hour, and at length went without her ; but Mrs. Godfrey arrived at Bow-Street immediately after.

The other ladies did not recognize the man ; but Mrs. Smyth at once pointed him out in the crowd of people that was there, among whom he stood without any distinguishing mark, and was positive to his person. Dr. Smyth, her husband, intreated her, as it appeared he had often done before, to be extremely cautious, and, if there was a shadow of doubt or uncertainty in her mind, to say nothing against the man ; but she declared that she was *clear and certain*.

From this just and candid statement of facts, it is evident, that no motive of reward could actuate either Mrs. Smyth or her husband, as their efforts were exerted for the detection of the MONSTER, and of this man particularly, previous to any reward being offered, or even thought of;

and they also publicly disclaimed every such idea.

The following is the only faithful account of the proceedings at the Public Office in Bow-Street, upon this occasion.

“ PUBLIC OFFICE, BOW-STREET.

“ April 19, 1790.

“ Some days ago Mrs. Smyth, who had been cut by a villain that met and walked with her in Fleet-Street, saw a man at Robins’s Auction-room, under the Piazas, Covent Garden, whom she immediately recognized to be the person that had committed the violent assault on her; she had him watched home, and information was immediately lodged at this office.

“ Mr. Addington, who was the sitting magistrate, directly went to Miss Porter, who had also been wounded, and took her to the house of the suspected person. She declaring he was not the man that wounded her, he was not then taken into custody; but Mrs. Smyth still affirming he was the person who had cut her, he was ordered to
be

be brought up yesterday ; and the following ladies, who had been wounded by some MONSTER (for such the perpetrator of these horrid deeds must be, as there was not one but laid strong claims to beauty) appeared. The Honourable Mrs. Walpole, Miss Felton, Mrs. Blaney, Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Smyth, Miss Touffaint, Mrs. Godfrey, and two Miss Baughans.

“ The man, whose name is Tuffing, and who by profession is a hair-dresser, was minutely viewed by each of the ladies, and all, except Mrs. Smyth, declared he was not the man that wounded them ; but Mrs. Smyth said she was positive he was the person that had assaulted her.

“ She was then sworn by Mr. Addington in the most solemn manner, and gave the following account :

“ In May 1788, her husband, Dr. Smyth, being absent, she was on a visit at a friend's, who lived in Johnson's-court, Fleet-street, and had in the evening gone out to drink tea : on her return, she was overtaken by a person, whom she swore to

be the prisoner, at the bottom of Fleet-street: he walked by the side of her, and made use of the most indecent language.

“ When they got near the court, she was so much terrified, that she would not venture up it, but walked on, the man still following her, and making use of the same language.

“ She went a little farther towards Temple-Bar, then turned; when seeing four persons go up Johnson’s-Court, she followed, the same man still remaining close by her.

“ When she got to the door, she knocked, and the man placed himself between the door and her; and just before the door opened, the fellow gave her a violent blow on her left breast, which he repeated with great force upon her thigh: he looked at her for some time with great composure, then deliberately walked away.

“ She was so much alarmed, that, for near half an hour after she got in, she was unable to speak.

“ During this time, her friends had applied

plied Turlington's drops to the wounds she had received (for she was stabbed in the upper part of her thigh), and by these the effusion of blood was stopped.

"The lady was then asked, whether she thought the prisoner was the person that had wounded her? She declared she was certain he was the man, not only from his person, but also from his voice.

"The prisoner, who keeps a house and clothes-shop in Great Queen-Street, declared his innocence.

"He was ordered to find bail for his appearance, himself in two hundred pounds, and two very sufficient sureties in one hundred pounds each."

The person of this man, whose name is *William Tuffing*, and who had not been in Queen-Street three months, corresponded exactly with the description always given by Mrs. Smyth of the man that had wounded her.

But these barbarous outrages being still continued, and new instances daily occurring, offers of AN HUNDRED POUNDS reward

reward were put up at the corner of every street in London, for the apprehending of a MONSTER, whose person, in a variety of dresses, was very minutely and particularly described.

Yet if any one gives the least attention to the whole of this business, it must appear beyond a doubt, that there is a GANG of these MONSTERS; and that they communicate with each other, from the exact similarity of their attacks.

For Mrs. Blaney describes the man that wounded her, as a *tall, stout, dark, well-looking* man, of the age of 35.

Mrs. Godfrey says, she was stabbed by a *middle-sized* man, of a *fallow* complexion, with the appearance of a gentleman, of the age of 30.

Miss Porter, that she was wounded by a man of a *pale* and *fair* complexion, &c. from which it is certain that there must be several in the GANG.

To ascertain this more perfectly, even to a demonstration, the following articles of intelligence and observations are also inserted

ed from one of the most respectable of the prints of that day, viz. the *Gazetteer*.

Gazetteer, May 8, 1790

“ So much has been said in the public prints of women being wounded in the streets by monsters in the shape of men, that it should seem to feeling minds impossible to be true; but it is lamentable to say, that every day brings fresh instances of its reality: the following fact we have inquired into, and find it too true:

“ On Thursday morning the sixth day of May, 1790, the maid-servant of Mr. Vickery, perfumer in Cheap-side, was wounded by a villain at the early hour of eight o'clock, and within two doors of her master's house.

“ She describes the monster to be a short man, meanly dressed; and that the instrument was a five pronged one, with which he scratched her from the shoulder to the elbow.

“ From the above description of the villain, it proves that there are more than one of that diabolical GANG.”

“ A MON-

" A MONSTER.

" On Wednesday, May 5, about ten o'clock in the evening, Elizabeth Davis was accosted by a tall, genteel dressed man, who wore a cockade, near Great Turnstile, Holborn : he gave her a violent blow on the thigh, and with his left hand struck her on the breast with great violence ; he then made off. The woman made all the haste home she could, which, from the fright and the blow she had received, was not much to be wondered at : on examination she discovered her gown and petticoats were cut through, and her thigh slightly wounded ; but she is much more hurt from the blow the villain gave her on the breast.

" On Friday May 7th, she appeared at Bow-Street office, in consequence of information that a man had given of his watching a person the same evening to a house near Castle-Street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields, whose person exactly answers the description she had given of the man that wounded her.

" She

“ She was in consequence requested by Sir Sampson Wright and Mr. Bond, to accompany the man who gave the information, and one of the officers, to the house the man had gone to. But on further enquiry, it appeared, the man who gave the information had been too eager ; for as soon as he saw him knock, he went away satisfied it was the person, and that he lived there. But on Sir Sampson’s officer going to the house, no such person lived there ; but the servant-maid recollected that some one had knocked at the door that evening, and that, on her opening it, he was gone.”

As every thing relating to this extraordinary and unprecedented business must be interesting, and as the advertisements, equally attracting and singular, are curiosities in themselves, and extremely scarce, we have taken pains to procure them ; and they are as follow :

“ PUB.

“ PUBLIC OFFICE, BOW-STREET.

“ *Thursday, April 29, 1790.*

“ ONE HUNDRED POUNDS REWARD.

“ SEVERAL LADIES having of late been inhumanly cut and maimed by a PERSON answering the following description: Whoever will apprehend him, or give such information to Sir SAMPSON WRIGHT at the above Office, as may be the means of his being apprehended, shall *immediately upon his commitment to prison* receive FIFTY POUNDS from Mr. ANGERSTEIN of Pall-Mall, and the further sum of FIFTY POUNDS *upon his conviction.*

“ N. B. He appears to be about 30 years of age, of a middle size, rather thin made, a little pock marked, of a pale complexion, large nose, light brown hair tied in a queue, cut short and frizzed low at the sides, sometimes *dressed in black* and sometimes in a shabby *blue* coat, sometimes wears *straw coloured* breeches with half boots *laced up before*, sometimes wears a *cocked* hat, and

at

at other times a *round* hat with a very high top, and generally carries a *wanghee* cane in his hand.

“ All servants are recommended to take notice if any man has staid at home without apparent cause within these few days during day-light.

“ All washerwomen and servants should take notice of any blood on a man's handkerchief or linen, as the *wretch* generally fetches blood when he strikes.

“ All servants should examine if any man carries sharp weapons about him, and if there is blood thereon, particularly tucks; and maid servants are to be told that a tuck is generally at the head of a stick, which comes out by a sudden jerk.

“ All CUTLERS are desired to watch if any man answering the above description is desirous of having his weapon of attack very sharp.”

The above very extraordinary advertisement strongly insinuates, either that there was only one person who committed all these

these sanguinary and unnatural actions, or that *that same* ONE man was alone pointed out for apprehension.

In about another week, however, these *sentiments, descriptions, and intentions* seem to have undergone a change, as will evidently appear by the next advertisement, which is still more curious, and is as follows :

“ *Pall-mall, 7th May, 1790.*

“ M R. A N G E R S T E I N

“ INFORMS THE PUBLIC,

“ That from the information he has received of the PERSON, who since *Friday* last has assaulted and wounded several women, there is great reason to fear that more than ONE *of these* WRETCHES infest the streets; it is therefore thought necessary to give the following description of ONE, who within this week has committed many acts of cruelty upon women.

“ He is generally described to be a person upwards of six feet high, thin made and
thin

thin visaged, full eyes, a large nose, and is marked with the small-pox on his cheek-bones. On *Friday night* last, when he assaulted a woman in *Vigo-lane*, he was dressed in a blue great coat, with a light-coloured coat under it, light-coloured waistcoat, cocked hat, and had a stick in his hand. On *Saturday night* and *Monday night* last, when he wounded a young woman in *Conduit-street*, he was dressed in dark brown clothes, and wore a round hat flapped over his face. On *Tuesday evening* between seven and eight o'clock, when he wounded a woman in *Marybone-street*, he wore a black coat, white stockings and half boots, and upon one of his stockings was a spot of blood, a round hat with a high crown, his hair platted behind and frizzed at the sides: at this time he had a DAGGER about fourteen inches long. And on *Wednesday night*, when he wounded a poor woman in Holborn, he wore a drab-coloured furtout-coat, which reached just below his knees, striped waistcoat, white stockings, a cocked hat with a high brim, and a cockade; his

hair frizzed at the sides in a bush, platted and turned up behind, and had a nosegay in his hand."

Although the offer of these rewards proceeded from the best of motives, yet they answered no good purpose: for by holding forth a *reward* upon *commitment*, as was done in these, a number of innocent men of different descriptions and characters were carried before the magistrates, and immediately discharged upon their persons not being identified.

The magistrates were much harassed; all the town, and especially the women were exceedingly alarmed; and the whole business appeared the more extraordinary and astonishing, as every day brought fresh accounts of new victims to the horrid attacks of these ruffians, notwithstanding the bills offering high rewards for their apprehension were pasted up at the corner of every street all over the metropolis.

It became dangerous for a man even to walk along the streets alone, as merely calling
ing

ing or pointing out any person as THE MONSTER, to the people passing, was sufficient to endanger his life; and many were robbed, and extremely abused, by this means.

No man of gallantry dared to approach a lady in the streets after dark, for fear of alarming her susceptible nature.

There was a total suspension of all street amours.

The gentle salutations and the gay blandishments of the *peripatetic* beauties, the soft, easy, accommodating fair ones, were all over; and gloomy jealousy and dark distrust appeared on every female brow.

The whole order of things was changed.

It was not safe for a gentleman to walk the streets, unless under the *protection* of a lady.

About this time Great Britain having begun to arm in expectation of a war with Spain, a hot press, which continued for many days and nights, cleared the town of the bulk of disorderly and suspected characters.

Upon this, the accounts of these sanguinary

nary depredations and unnatural attacks began to subside and die away ; at length indeed they entirely ceased : and they were besides, in their nature, so unaccountable and perplexing, that they were much and publicly discountenanced even in several of the daily prints.

An otherwise respectable paper, THE PUBLIC LEDGER, took the lead in this *incredulity*, and even went so far as to pledge themselves to the public, that such outrages had never happened, and that no such being as a MONSTER *existed* or *did ever exist*; insisting that every report proceeded entirely from a few bungling attempts to cut off the ladies pockets.

The following are their express words :

Public Ledger, 21st May, 1790.

“ THE MONSTER.

“ This ideal animal, which has so long been the terror of women and children, begins now to be so well understood as to frighten no longer.

“ While there remained any probability that there existed a wretch capable of cutting

ting and maiming defenceless women, we thought it proper to withhold any remarks until it should be fully proved to the public.

“ Of this, however, there is now no doubt. There can be no doubt in the mind of any man, who has considered and examined the subject, that the whole is a mistake from beginning to end. That two or three ladies have been wounded slightly by some bungling *Barringtonian*, who endeavoured to cut their pockets, is undeniable ; but there is nothing *monstrous* here, unless the monstrous impudence of a pick-pocket.

“ This opinion on the affair ought to have been published some time since ; but, as observed already, we were unwilling to do any thing that might interfere, or seem to interfere with the benevolent intentions of well-meaning men, who stood forwards with hearts and purse, as the redoubtable champions of the fair sex.

“ It is a superior duty, however, to undeceive the public ; and this, we think,

may be done now with perfect confidence, as, from every enquiry and consideration, we are bold to assert" (*a direct unqualified falsehood*) "that THERE NEVER DID, AND DOES NOT NOW EXIST A MONSTER, OR MONSTERS, OF THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC.

" In thus standing forward as the *first* to open the eyes of the public, we consider ourselves as executing an important duty, and are not afraid of what we may risque by the declaration."

Such is the intelligence of many of the daily papers ! So little to be depended on, that even the most *palpable* and *notorious untruth* was, in this instance, asserted as a fact, to the veracity of which they even pledged their credit.

However, this *bold* and *unfounded assertion* did not pass unnoticed by the fair sufferers, and their gallant friends and protectors ; for, in the same paper, the PUBLIC LEDGER, of the 27th of May, the following contradiction appeared :

Public

Public Ledger, 27th May, 1790.

“ T H E M O N S T E R .

“ In our paper of Friday we took an opportunity to insert the remarks of a correspondent, in contradiction of the reports concerning the existence of such beings as have been described as MONSTERS.

“ The same motives, viz. love of truth and a desire to give just information to the public, which induced us to state what we did concerning the Monsters in the papers of Friday last, oblige us to acknowledge, that we have received such full and fair information on that subject, as renders it necessary to retract the assertions then made.

“ For Mrs. Smyth, lady of Dr. Smyth, of Stephen-street, Rathbone-place;

“ And Mrs. Chippingdale, at Lord Malden's, St. James's place, both wounded in May 1788;

“ Mrs. Godfrey, of Charlotte-street, Portland Place, wounded in May 1789;

“ Miss Porter, St. James's street;

“ Miss Touffaint, Sackville-street ;

“ Miss Frost, Jermyn-street ;

“ Mrs. Blaney, Bury-street ;

“ Miss Felton, at the Hon. Mrs. Walpole's, Dover-street ; and

“ Mrs. Payne, at Lord Howe's, Grafton-street ; wounded this year, and some of them very dangerously :

“ Ladies whose characters are unimpeachable, and whose persons are generally handsome, some of them indeed beautiful ; all concur in declaring, that the men who wounded them made *no attempt to rob them, nor could have any intention of cutting their pockets*, as we then conjectured in that statement, which our candour and love of truth now obliges us to contradict.

“ At the same time, there is no doubt, but that many similar attacks have been made since, both by wicked persons that delight in mischief, and by thieves and pick-pockets, for the purpose of depredation.

“ But all the ladies above-named were wounded before the *clamour* about the

MONSTERS was public; and as there certainly were no attempts to rob, the motives of the wretches still remain altogether unaccountable."

This was farther confirmed by a paragraph in the same paper of the 29th of May, as follows:

Public Ledger, 29th May 1790.

" On the 21st of this month our readers may probably recollect we published an article in our paper, in which the existence of those beings called Monsters was absolutely denied.

" We have since received such information from Dr. Smyth of Stephen-street, Rathbone-place, whose lady was attacked by a wretch of that description in Fleet-street, and from several ladies of great respectability who have been injured in the like manner, that induces us to doubt the authenticity of that article."

But the activity of the press-gangs was of more service in putting an end to, or rather

rather in causing a suspension of, these diabolical outrages upon the female sex, than all the exertions of the runners belonging to the different public offices of police, stimulated as they were by the continued liberal offers of reward.

Doubt and incredulity, however, very soon began again to prevail; and even the friends of the humane and actively benevolent Mr. ANGERSTEIN would sometimes joke and banter him very freely upon the subject; which indeed they were too well enabled to do on rather tenable grounds, from the inefficiency of such arduous and laudable exertions; when the public attention was again excited by an account of *another* person being secured, on the accusation of several ladies who had been wounded, and who positively identified his person upon oath.

The following is an exact detail of the circumstances that led to the apprehension and commitment of this person.

PUBLIC

PUBLIC OFFICE, BOW-STREET.

June 14th, 1790.

Rynwick Williams was charged before Sir *Sampson Wright*, *Wm. Addington* and *Nicholas Bond*, Esqrs. with having maimed and wounded several ladies, at various times and places.

Before we proceed to give the examination of the prisoner, it will be necessary to state the means by which he was apprehended.

One of the Miss Porters, of St. James's Street, who was wounded by *the Monster*, was on Sunday evening, the 13th instant, walking in St. James's Park, accompanied with another lady, and Mr. John Coleman, fishmonger in Berkeley-square.

The conversation turned on the wretch who had wounded her; and Mr. Coleman begged Miss Porter to point him out, should she see him, as she had declared she had several times.

In about five minutes after, Miss Porter, with much agitation, said, "That's the
I " man

“ man who wounded me,” pointing out the prisoner.

Mr. Coleman, with more caution than was perhaps necessary on such an occasion, did not immediately seize upon him, but followed him.

The prisoner walked amazingly fast through a variety of courts and turnings, until he came to Bolton-street, where he knocked at a door, and went in. Mr. Coleman stood some time to watch his coming out, which he at length did; but, on enquiry, he was not known there.

He returned to St. James's Street, and called at the china-shop the corner of Pall-Mall, where he did not stay long. He also called at other houses, and at length at the house of Mr. Smith, in South Molton-street.

Mr. Coleman knocked at the door, and insisted on seeing the prisoner: he was introduced to the parlour, where he was upwards of a quarter of an hour in the dark, and where at length they exchanged addresses, and Mr. Coleman found that he
knew

knew the prisoner, who was formerly a musician, and played the violin at the theatre ; he also knew the brother of the prisoner, an apothecary, who bears a very good character : and on these considerations he did not persist in his determination of carrying him immediately before Miss Porter, thinking that he was always to be found, and that she could see him the next day.

He therefore left Mr. Smith's house, and went towards St. James's Street.

On his way he recollected, that he had acted improperly ; for that if the person was guilty, he would abscond : and again meeting him at the top of St. James's Street, in Piccadilly, he insisted on his going to Mr. Porter's house, in that street ; where Miss Porter being more confirmed than before in her certainty of the man, he was taken to St. James's watch-house.

The examination commenced by Miss Anne Porter being sworn.

She gave an account of her being in the gallery of the ball-room at St. James's on the
night

night of the Queen's birth-day, in company with her sister Sarah, and an elderly lady. Her father and two friends were to have conducted them home; but the ball being over sooner than usual, she and her sister did not wait for their father, but set out, in order to get home: as they went along, she observed her sister change colour, and appear much agitated; and presently after saw the prisoner, of whose person she was very positive, he having repeatedly before insulted them in the streets and Kensington Gardens, by the most obscene and infamous language. She was alarmed, as her sister told her, that he had struck her a blow upon the back of her head, and they made the best of their way home—he following them very close until they came to their own door, when he gave her a violent blow.

He walked on to the next house, then returned, and waited until the door was opened, and he had seen them into the passage: at which time they were so greatly alarmed, that they could not speak.

When

When she got in, she found herself dangerously wounded, and Mr. Tomkins, a surgeon, was sent for.

He was next sworn, and said that, on examining, he found Miss Porter had received a wound in the thigh, of between nine or ten inches in length, and three or four inches deep—that it must have been given with an instrument of uncommon sharpness.

Miss Sarah Porter repeated nearly what her sister had said, adding, that she perfectly recollected his person, and was very positive to him, as she had so often seen him, at each of which times he had behaved in the most infamous manner to her and her sisters.

Miss Martha and Miss Rebecca Porter were also sworn, and said, they had been with their sisters when the prisoner had made use of obscene language, and had behaved very ill to them all.

They were each of them very positive as to his person.

Miss Ann Frost, of Jermyn-street, swore,
That

That on the last Lord Mayor's day she had been in the city, and at eleven o'clock in the evening was returning home : the prisoner, whom she swore positively to, followed her, and made use of very bad language, until she was at her own door, where he struck her, and ran off.

On coming to herself, she found her clothes were cut through, but she was not wounded.

She met him twice afterwards, but he always escaped.

She was no less positive to his voice than person.

Mrs. Franklin said, that about two years ago, the prisoner, of whose person she had not the least doubt, followed her, and made use of very abusive and indelicate language, and repeated his insults seven or eight times since ; the last time was about the latter end of last summer—but he never had cut her.

Miss Elizabeth Baughan said, that on the evening of the 7th of last December, she, in company with her sister, was passing
ing

ing along Bridge-street, Westminster, when a man, whom she believes to be the prisoner, accosted her in very obscene language, and followed her to Parliament-street, where he cut her and her sister, Frances Baughan, who was more positive to his person.

In addition to these proofs, a light drab-coloured horseman's coat was particularly mentioned, in several of the advertisements, as being worn by the person who committed these outrages; and a coat answering precisely to this description was found at the lodgings of the prisoner.

He was committed to New Prison, Clerkenwell, for farther examination on Wednesday, which was as follows.

PUBLIC OFFICE, BOW-STREET.

June 16, 1790.

Rynwick Williams was again brought up for examination before *Sir Sampson Wright*, *William Addington* and *Nicholas Bond*, Esquires.

In addition to the charges already made against him, several other persons appeared to give their testimonies.

Six ladies were examined, who could not

H

identify

identify the person of the prisoner; some saying that it was a taller man that had wounded them, some a shorter.

These ladies were all wounded; but several others swore to the person of the prisoner.

The first of this description was Mrs. Forster, who deposed, That about twenty nights before the Haymarket Theatre closed last season, she was returning from that house, and a few doors from thence, a man, who she declared most solemnly on her oath was the prisoner, accosted her, and asked her if she would permit him to see her home.

She did not make any reply, but walked on. He walked by her side, and continually repeated his question until they got to St. Ann's Church, where he struck her a violent blow upon her hip, and made off through King-street. Two gentlemen came to her assistance, and conducted her home; where she, from the fright and loss of blood—which, she declared, was at least the quantity of three half pints—fainted. One of the gentlemen fortunately was a surgeon;

geon; and, on examining the wound, found it at least three inches in depth.

She had at the time five petticoats on; and as there were three holes in the petticoats, though she received but one wound, it is probable they had got folded, and that the instrument had penetrated through them in that state, from which the extreme sharpness of it is evident.

She some time after saw the prisoner at Covent Garden Theatre, and there pointed him out to a gentleman, who challenged him with the offence. The prisoner gave the gentleman his directions to the house he then lived in, No. 36, Bow-street, and no other notice was taken of him.

Some time after, she again saw him in Fleet-street; but he made off.

Mrs. Forster was bound over in a recognizance of 50l. to prosecute the prisoner.

The manner in which she identified him, was the most positive we ever heard, for she used the following words:—"I know

H 2

him

him so well, that if upon my death bed I had taken the sacrament, I would, without the least doubt, swear that this is the man who wounded me."

The prisoner said, that at the time this lady was wounded, he was an hundred miles from London. He acknowledged his having been challenged by her at the play-house.

The next evidence examined was Elizabeth Davis; who said, that about six weeks ago she was returning home from her work, at ten o'clock in the evening, and in Chancery-lane was accosted by a man, who asked her where she was going.

[The prisoner was then (and indeed during the whole examination) standing among the crowd of gentlemen who were in the office; and Sir *Sampson Wright* desired the woman to look round and see if the man who spoke to her in Chancery-lane was present. She did so, and without hesitation fixed on the prisoner, declaring she had the clearest recollection of him.]

She then proceeded with her story.

She made him no reply to his question, which he repeated ; and she at length said she was going home.

He followed her along Holborn, until they got near the Bull and Gate Inn, when he asked her to smell a nosegay, he had in his hand. She refused, and immediately he gave her a violent blow across the thigh, which he followed by another across the breast, and then ran off.

She on getting home was of course much alarmed ; though, as she declared, “ she did not think it was *the Monster*, because she had been told he wounded none but the Nobility,” until she found her clothes cut, and her thigh slightly wounded.

She being a married woman, and her husband not present, Mr. *Angerstein* entered into a recognizance of 50*l.* for her appearance to prosecute the prisoner.

Several other ladies were examined, but their testimony was less circumstantial and less clear than the two former.

Miss Wheeler was sworn, and deposed, That she, in company with her father,

was at Ranelagh the night after the Spanish Ambassador's Gala ; and that her father left her in the room while he went to get his carriage, in order to convey them home.

While he was gone, the prisoner, of whose person she had the most perfect recollection, accosted her, and made use of the most indecent and brutal language ; so much so, that she was under the necessity of calling for assistance ; on which the prisoner made off.

She again saw him the following Sunday in St. James's Park, when in company with her sister. She a few minutes after met her father, and told him of her having seen the prisoner. He desired her with her sister to walk on, and that he would follow at a convenient distance, so as to apprehend the man should he speak to them.

The prisoner followed them as far as Bennet-street, where he spoke to her, and wondered how she dared to accuse him of having been insolent to her at Ranelagh, and was proceeding to be very indelicate with

with her, when her father laid hold of him; but as a crowd collected, she persuaded her father to let him go.

Fortunately she had not been wounded.

Charlotte Payne, servant to the Countess of Howe, was sworn. She said, that on a Sunday evening, near three months ago, she was accosted in Brook-street, Grosvenor-square, by a man who whispered to her, and asked her if he should see her home: she made him no reply, but walked on to her home in Grafton-street; the man still continuing to behave very civil to her until he came to the bottom of the steps leading to Lord Howe's door, where he laid hold of her by the shoulders with both hands, and with his knee kicked her up the steps, all the time making use of infamous language, and then left her; on going in she found she had received a wound through the skirt of her gown, but did not recollect that he had ever touched her with his hands except on the shoulders. She added, that, from the darkness of the evening, she could not see the villain who wounded her plainly; but that,

as much as she could recollect of him, he was like the prisoner.

Great care was taken to give the prisoner the benefit of not being charged upon slender, or assisted evidence ; for he was in the yard behind the office, in the midst of a vast crowd of persons : but both Miss Wheeler and Mrs. Forster pointed him out without the least difficulty or hesitation.

The prisoner was perfectly collected and active in cross-examining his accusers, but appeared a little more affected than on his first day's examination. His defence is an *alibi* to every charge.

He was re-committed to New Prison, Clerkenwell ; and will be again brought up for further examination.

The office was extremely crowded, and honoured with the presence of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, the Duke of Hamilton, Lord Beauchamp, Colonel Fitzpatrick, the Earl of Essex, and many other men of fashion during the examination.

The crowd in the street was exceedingly
great

great, and never did we apprehend more fatal effects from the misguided zeal of honest indignation in the populace, than on the present occasion; they certainly were tragically inclined, nor can our readers want to be informed who was the object of their fury: it was with the utmost exertion, and greatest difficulty that the officers preserved from destruction, not only the prisoner, but the coach also in which he was carried!

PUBLIC OFFICE, BOW-STREET.

June 18, 1790.

THE MONSTER.

The person who stands charged with this uncommon and inhuman offence, was brought again before Mr. Bond, the sitting magistrate, to be examined on another charge exhibited against him, for having wounded another lady.

The usual and laudable caution was used on this occasion to the prisoner's advantage: the lady retired into the parlour, while

while some evidence of a conversation between the prisoner and a lad, whom he had taken with him to Ranelagh, was relating before the magistrate.

This conversation being fully related, and the boy being directed to withdraw, the prisoner was sent for, and all the gentlemen in the office were desired to be covered, and the prisoner, without an iron on his leg, or any other mark to distinguish him, was permitted to stand in the midst of them.

Mrs. Godfrey, who exhibited this charge, was then introduced: she looked around the whole company, and pointed out Mr. Williams, and said, "If it be any one in this company, this is the man:" he was then uncovered, and she observed, that he did not appear so positively in her recollection with his hat off:—being then directed to put it on, she said, "That she had very little doubt but that he was the man who wounded her—that she had every reason to believe that he was the man."

Mrs. Godfrey then very accurately related

lated the circumstances :—That she had been at her upholder's shop, and was returning home between eight and nine in the evening in May 1789—the prisoner followed her, and when he came up to her used very improper language, to which she made no answer : he then followed her to the door of her own house, and as she was stepping up to the door, he uttered an oath, and with some sharp instrument cut her on the left thigh through a gown and other clothes ; he then walked gently on as if he had done nothing. Mrs. Godfrey having lost much blood, fainted, and remembered nothing that afterwards happened until her surgeon arrived to her assistance.

She again repeated, that she had every reason in the world to believe that the prisoner is the person who wounded her.

The prisoner contented himself with denying the charge generally, as he has that of several other persons.

The prisoner said, that he had twice before been challenged for the *Monster*, particularly

ticularly once at the play-house ; that he was an artificial flower-maker ; and at the time Miss Porter was cut, he was particularly engaged at his business, at the house of Mr. Michell, in Dover-street, where he was till near one o'clock in the morning.

Mrs. Godfrey being a married lady, and her husband being out of town, no recognizance was entered into for her appearance ; but she having undertaken to send a housekeeper to enter into a recognizance on her behalf, the prisoner was charged with a detainer for her, and was then conducted to prison.

The person who thus stands charged with this offence without a name—we say without a name, for how could our grave lawgivers provide a title for that which they neither ever heard existed or could possibly conjecture ever would exist?—this character is about five feet seven inches high, of a dark complexion, long nose and face, forming something of an eagerness of countenance, heightened perhaps

haps by an agitated mind : his features are not irregular ; his hair curls strongly, he wears it at present in a short queue : he is rather slender ; and his countenance being so well known, for out of the concourse of persons who saw him at the Public Office, the majority were conscious of having seen him often, it is a matter of curious speculation how he remained so long undetected.

He lived a few years since, we understand, with Mr. Gallini, as clerk or apprentice. He has since subsisted by adorning the fair sex, having been an *artificial florist* !—He is the son, as we learn, of an Apothecary, who some years since lived in Broad-street, Carnaby-market.

He lodged at Mr. Blake's, the sign of the George, in Bury-street, St. James's, where he and another man had slept together for a fortnight.

Upon these charges although committed, he was informed the offence was bailable.

But upon the magistrates looking over the Act of the 6th of George I. it was found

found in chap. 23, that cutting of the garments constituted a felony.

He was therefore ordered to be brought up again on Thursday, and the ladies to attend, and produce such part of their wearing apparel as had been cut by the prisoner.

The two Miss Baughans, Miss A. Frost, and Elizabeth Davis, appeared and produced their clothes, which they swore had been cut by the prisoner in the manner related on their former examinations.

They were all separately bound over to prosecute him for that offence.

On Thursday June the 24th, he was again brought up to Bow-street, when Mrs. Forster appeared, and was also bound over to prosecute for feloniously cutting her clothes.

Although it is clear and positively certain, that there are SEVERAL persons who have committed these horrid actions which the relations of the different persons wounded evidently ascertain, beyond a possibility

possibility of doubt; yet so many ladies identified this man upon oath, that a doubt was again hinted, in a very respectable paper, whether there was more than one, and whether another MONSTER could exist in nature. At least a hope of this kind was expressed. This was in the MORNING CHRONICLE of the 17th of June.

But on the day following there appeared in the same paper, viz. the MORNING CHRONICLE, the following paragraph.

Morning Chronicle, June 18, 1790.

“ T H E M O N S T E R .

“ This appellation we have hitherto adopted, in our narrations of this unprecedented business, merely because we wished to point out the same object with those of our cotemporaries, to whom *Truth* and *Feeling* were objects to be prized before *Scepticism* and *Ridicule* !

“ We are far from believing, however, that the perpetrator of this mad, unnatural mischief stands *singly*, and without associated
 I guilt.

guilt. In the communications which have been made to us, the descriptions vary in every shade from *black* to *fair*, and from the tallest, to a diminutive stature.

“ There have been also persons sworn to, and the evidence in these instances is not less unexceptionable than that which has been given in the present enquiry. One prosecution, we can speak from reasons amounting to conviction, was dropped, not through the want of proof, but from an unwarrantable ridicule which had been cast over the whole of the transaction.

“ We lament that we are under the necessity of saying, that there is, beyond doubt, a *herd* of these *Miscreants*; and that those who look for an end to the mischief in a single conviction, lose sight of the original object of their pursuit !

“ That rewards will answer in this instance the purpose for which they are offered, we are greatly inclined to doubt !

“ Let a proper association be formed : let proper regulations be adopted ; and where is the man of gallantry, humanity,
or

or spirit, who will decline to wear the UNIFORM !”

In the same paper, viz. the Morning Chronicle, of the 25th June, is the following article of intelligence, viz.

“ An unnatural villain was committed to the gaol of Birmingham on Monday last, on a charge of having wounded one of the ladies of that town.

“ The culprit has been identified, and is supposed to have fled from the metropolis in consequence of the measures taken here to bring to exemplary justice the *accomplices* of *Rynwick Williams*.”

of which, who will decline to wear the uniform, will be considered as deserters.

In the same paper, which is the Chronicle, of the 21st July, the following article of intelligence is published:

"A detachment of British troops, consisting of the 1st and 2nd battalions of the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, and a company of the 1st Battalion of the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, were sent to the relief of the garrison of the fort of St. John, on the 21st of July, and on the 22nd of July, the fort was retaken by the British troops, and the garrison was killed or wounded."

The capture of the fort of St. John, is supposed to have been the result of the co-operation of the British troops, and the assistance of the French troops, who were sent to the relief of the garrison of the fort of St. John, on the 21st of July, and on the 22nd of July, the fort was retaken by the British troops, and the garrison was killed or wounded."

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THE
T R I A L
OF
RYNWICK WILLIAMS,
AT THE
OLD BAILEY, on THURSDAY the 8th of July 1790,
BEFORE
JUDGE BULLER, AND A MIDDLESEX JURY,
*For assaulting and wounding Miss Ann Porter, with an intent to
injure her WEARING APPAREL.*

TAKEN IN SHORT-HAND.

WEDNESDAY, the 7th of July, RYNWICK WILLIAMS was arraigned at the Bar of the Old Bailey, charged with making an assault upon Ann Frost, spinster, on the 9th of November last (viz. 1789), in Jermyn-street, St. James's, and wickedly, wilfully, and maliciously tearing and spoiling her garments, to wit, the gown, petticoats, and shift of said Ann—against the statute in that case provided.

For the commission of a familiar offence in Holborn, on the 5th of May, 1790, on Sarah the wife of John Davis

The same, on Sarah, the wife of John Godfrey, on May, 13, 1789, in St. Mary-le-Bone.

The 26th of September, 1789, on Mary Forster, in Macclesfield-street, Soho.

The 6th of December, 1789, on Elizabeth Baughan, in Parliament-street.—For a like act on the same day, in the same street, on Frances Baughan.

For the like act, on Ann Porter, the 18th of January 1790, in St. James's-street.

To all which pleading Not Guilty, he was remanded to confinement; and, on THURSDAY, was conducted into court, precisely at nine o'clock, to take his trial on the latter indictment, before Judge Buller, and a Middlesex Jury. Mr. Knowles appeared as counsel for the prisoner; and Messrs. Pigot and Shepherd for the prosecutor.

The Jury being sworn, Mr. Pigot addressed them nearly as follows:

Gentlemen,

This is the most extraordinary case that ever called for the attention of a Court of Justice.

It is an unpleasant task to call to your minds a scene so new in the annals of mankind—a scene so unaccountable—a scene so unnatural—that for the honour of the human Race could not be believed ever to have existed, unless demonstrated by proof which the senses could not resist. But while we are trying the prisoner, for this unnatural, unaccountable, and until now, unknown offence, we should not forget that he is our fellow-being, nor refuse him an attentive hearing.

The prisoner at the Bar stands charged with a crime the most disgraceful which can possibly taint the character of man: his object, to insult the fairest, the most amiable,
the

the most beautiful part of the creation, with language gross, obscene, and horrible. Four young ladies, sisters, have proved the objects of his malice; to two of them his person is perfectly familiar. Miss Ann Porter, in company with one of her sisters, and a lady, missing their attendants after passing the evening at the ball-room, in St. James's, on the 18th of January, were under the necessity of walking home, between eleven and twelve o'clock. They were followed by the prisoner at the bar; which being observed by the sister Miss Sarah, she begged her to run. This she did, without knowing the reason; but as she reached her father's door, the attack was made, the particulars of which will shortly be related by the witnesses; her cloaths were cut across, and she was wounded, by an instrument, in the right hip. As if rejoicing in this atrocious deed, the prisoner viewed, with much effrontery, the scene of horror which he had occasioned.

On being compelled afterwards by Mr. Coleman, by whose means he was apprehended, to consent to submit himself to the view of the ladies, and that Gentleman saying they were *near* the house of Mr. Porter, Williams, without any particular direction, and without being minutely conducted, went strait to the door—thus proving, that he was by no means a stranger to the house.

It will appear, that his lodging has been at a little public-house in Bury-street; that the room where he slept had three beds, and two in an adjacent room, but with no other entrance than by means of the first; and that in these beds six men usually slept.

I am told that the prisoner means to endeavour at the establishment of an *alibi*, as the only possible means left to invalidate the conviction stamped on the minds of the young ladies, that he is positively the perpetrator of the enormities already enumerated. Give me leave, gentlemen, to observe, that this mode of defence may be considered in two lights ; the *best* and the *worst* testimony which can be adduced. The former, as indicating the most certain grounds of innocence ; the latter, as including a scene of villany but somewhat inferior to the first crime ; exclusive of the mischiefs which may result from defeating the regular and necessary course of justice.

In the commission of almost every human crime we may trace a motive. But what shall I say to the present case? no visible inducement, no purpose to answer, no revenge to satisfy, no injury to be redressed—Beauty and Virtue falling by the assassin's hand—in vain must we look for the object and the end. Yet has this man *female* relations !

I shall forbear expatiating further, in the full assurance that you will give due attention to the evidence which I shall now proceed to adduce.

MISS ANN PORTER

Question. When did you receive the injury stated in the indictment?—Answer. On the 18th of January last, the Queen's birth-day.

Q. Where did you pass the evening of that day?—

A. In the ball-room at St. James's.

Q. What

Q. What time did you leave the ball-room?—A. Between eleven and twelve o'clock.

Q. What passed after that time?—A. I left the ball-room in company with my sister Sarah and Mrs. Meale.

Q. What happened in your passage from thence to your own house?—A. I was much alarmed on being followed by a man.

Q. Did you see the prisoner?—A. Yes, I did. My sister suddenly desired me to run as fast as possible.

Q. What happened afterwards?—A. my sister reached the door first; Mrs. Meale next; and last myself.

Q. What occurred when you reached the door?—A. I felt a violent blow on my hip.

Q. Do you know from whom that blow proceeded?—A. I saw the prisoner stoop down.

Q. Have you any recollection of his person?—A. Yes; I have seen him before, three or four times: sometimes he has walked behind, then before me, uttering the most gross and abusive language, in the day-time.

Q. How long did the prisoner continue at the door after he had given the blow?—A. Cannot exactly say; after the blow I felt a strange sensation.

Q. Did you see the prisoner afterwards?—A. Yes; he stood and stared me in the face.

Q. Are you sure it was the prisoner at the Bar?—A. Yes; I saw him perfectly.

Q. You are confident?—A. I have not the slightest doubt; suffering so much at different times on his account, I could not be deceived.

Q. You received a wound?—A. Yes.

Q. When next did you see the prisoner?—A. On Sunday the 13th of June, in St. James's Park, when walking with my mother, two of my sisters, and Mr. Coleman.

Q. Did Coleman see the prisoner?—A. Not till I pointed him out.

Q. How came you to observe him?—A. He met and passed us; I knew him in a moment; and being much agitated, Mr. Coleman asked the reason.

Q. By what means are you confident that the person you thus met was the identical man who had previously insulted you?—A. After he had passed us, I turned round, for more complete observation; in that instant, he did the same, as if to notice me.

Q. Did you perfectly recollect him, when brought to your house, afterwards, by Mr. Coleman?—A. I was then in a state of insensibility.

Q. Was he pointed out to you before you recognized him at the Public Office in Bow-street?—A. He was not pointed out.

Cross examined by Mr. KNOWLES; who thought it necessary to make some previous apology to Miss Porter on account of the injuries which it could not be denied she had receive from *some* person.

Q. Your sister, did she not give you the first intimation of danger?—A. I did not at first understand my sister; but ran as fast as I was able.

Q. When you arrived at your father's house, did you find the door open?—A. The door was not opened for some time.

Q. While

Q. While waiting at the door, you received a violent blow from some person?—A. Yes.

Q. What passed after you received the blow?—A. I was much alarmed and fluttered.

Q. How close was the person to you when you turned round?—A. Within three yards.

Q. At this time was the middle of the street light?—A. Yes.

Q. Pray, as you had an opportunity of observing, what was the prisoner's dress at that time?—A. He appeared to have on a great coat.

Q. When did this matter happen?—A. Within five minutes after leaving the palace, between eleven and twelve o'clock.

[Here Miss Porter's dress was produced; the gown, of silk, had a very long rent in it; as had the shift, but not so long as the first: evidently from the effect of a violent attack.]

Q. You are confident that this is the gown you had on?—A. Yes.

Q. And that rent proceeded from the blow?—A. Yes.

Q. Was your person hurt?—A. Yes.

Q. Cut?—A. Yes.

Q. The street was light enough to see other objects farther distant from you than the person who committed the assault?—A. Yes.

SARAH PORTER.

Q. Do you know the prisoner at the Bar?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever see him before the 18th of June?—A. Yes.

Q. Had

Q. And was the light occasioned by the lamps on the Queen's birth-day, sufficient to enable you to distinguish the person of the prisoner?—A. It was.

Q. What passed after your sister had been wounded?—A. When we got into the passage, I observed Williams on the threshold of the door.

Q. How long before this was it that you saw the prisoner?—A. While at work in the window, about a week before, saw him pass by; and, impressed with great apprehension, I screamed.

Q. When at Bow-street, did any one point him out to your notice?—A. I selected him myself from the crowd.

Q. You have no doubt as to his person?—A. Not the least shadow, or I would not have sworn.

Cross examination.

Q. On the alarm, was your door opened before the prisoner came up?—A. No.

Q. Did the blow appear to you to be as hard as could be given?—A. Yes.

Q. Was it more than one blow?—A. No.

Q. Was the instrument a sharp cutting one?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you heard any thing of another prosecution for cutting?—A. Yes.

Q. When at Bow-street, did you at once, without instruction, fix on the prisoner?—A. I did.

REBECCA PORTER.

Q. Was you at the ball-room on the Queen's birthday?—A. I was not.

Q. Have

Q. Had you any acquaintance with him?—A. No.

Q. Where did you see him?—A. He followed us, at four different times, in the street. Once he put his hand over my shoulder, and uttered language the most gross and dreadful.

Q. Did his conversation tend to any thing else?—A. No.

Q. How often did you see him previous to the last attack?—A. I saw him four times.

Q. Did you observe him particularly?—A. Yes.

Q. You knew his person perfectly on the 18th of January?—A. Yes.

Q. Where, then, did you first observe him?—A. In St. James-street; we left the ball-room at a quarter past eleven; and I saw him, standing with his back to us, looking down the street: a chairman passing by, he turned round, came up, and said—"O ho!" then gave me a violent blow on the back part of my head.

Q. What then did you do?—A. Requested my sister to run as fast as possible—for God's sake to make haste—for that the *wretch* was behind us.

Q. Who had you in company at this time?—A. Another lady; we all run as fast as possible.

Q. Did you observe what passed at the door?—A. Yes; I saw the whole affair. I saw him strike at my sister with his hand shut; and I heard the noise occasioned by the *rent* in her gown.

Q. Are you confident that this person was the same whom you had so often met before?—A. Yes; have no doubt; none in the world.

Q. And

Q. Have you ever seen the prisoner at the Bar before?
—A. Yes, several times. I was once with my sister Ann when he accosted her.

Q. Of what nature was his conversation?—
A. Highly gross, and improper.

Q. Did you easily recognize him when in custody at Bow-street?—A. Yes.

Q. Is he the same man who accosted your sister?—
A. Yes; I have not the least doubt.

MARTHA PORTER.

Q. Look at the prisoner; have you ever seen him before?—A. Yes; several times. I was once with my sister Ann when he accosted her.

Q. Did he behave as a gentleman ought?—A. No, his expressions were dreadful; his manner horrid.

Q. Have you any doubt as to the person of the prisoner?—A. Not the least; am *quite* positive.

Q. Did you see him at Bow-street?—A. Yes; and am positive, very so, that he is the man who accosted my sister.

JOHN COLEMAN, *Fishmonger in Berkley-square, lodging in Mount-street.*

Q. Do you remember being with Miss Porter on the 13th of June last, in the afternoon or evening?—

A. Yes; walking in the Park at that time with Miss Ann Porter, a person passed, whom she pointed out as being the prisoner, exclaiming, “The *wretch* has just passed us!” She appeared greatly agitated.

Q. Are you sure the prisoner is the same person?—
A. Yes.

Q. When you saw the person described as the *wretch*, what followed?—A. He walked very fast towards Spring Gardens, to a bookseller's at the corner; from thence to the Admiralty Passage, back again, another way, to Spring Gardens, as if conscious of being followed. He next passed up Cockspur-street to Pall Mall, while I followed sufficiently near to be perceived. Passing into St. James's-street, I was joined by a gentleman of my acquaintance: from thence the prisoner went to Bolton-street, where knocking at a door, he went into the house for five minutes. When he came out, my friend enquired at the house if they knew him; while I followed to Piccadilly, and from thence to St. James's-street again, where he knocked at a door, and asked some questions of a servant.

Q. Did this servant know him?—A. No. From St. James's-street I followed him to Bond-street; endeavouring, all the way, to insult him; walking sometimes before, and sometimes behind him, staring him in the face.

Q. Did he say any thing in consequence!—A. No. But I continued my gestures of offence; nay, made a feint to square at him. He passed to Oxford Road, and into Vere-street, where he knocked lustily at the door of an empty house: but no one appearing, I accosted him, to know what he could expect from knocking so violently where there was not the shadow of gaining admittance. He said he knew the parties belonging to the house, their name was Pearce, and knocked again, loud enough to rouse even in the garret, if any one had been within.

Q. How

Q. How long did he continue at this door?—

A. Three or four minutes. After which he again crossed Oxford-street, to Southmolton-street, where he knocked. I followed behind, and saw him enter the house. Of Mr. Smith, the master of this house, I asked information of the man; but he requested me to assign a reason for my question. We were speaking in a parlour in the dark. I requested his address, offering to give my own: but Williams, and indeed Smith, appeared to be disinclined without my assigning some reason. I then said he had insulted some ladies under my protection, for which I meant to demand satisfaction. He offered to meet me at any coffee-house. But persisting in my request, we at length exchanged, he giving me his direction, at “No. 52, Jermyn-street,” in Bury-street. I now thought I had some previous knowledge of this man; and he, too, began to know something of me after some time, it was recollected that we had seen each other at an assembly in King-street, Covent Garden. When I had suffered him to go from me, I began to reflect that I had done wrong, that I should have secured him.

Q. When next did you see him?—**A.** On my return back, I again met him in St. James's street; and, looking stedfastly at him, said, “I cannot think you are the person described. Come with me; we are near Mr. Porter's door; satisfy the ladies that they are mistaken.” This he did not refuse; he went to the door; and being introduced into the parlour, Misses Ann and Sarah both fainted: when recovered, one of them exclaimed,

“O my

"O my God, Coleman, that is the wretch, that is the wretch!" Ann would not stay in the room.

Q. Did this seeming odd behaviour of the ladies produce any particular expressions from the prisoner?—

A. He asked, "Do the ladies suspect me to be the person advertised? Am I suspected?" I answered, "It is really so?" and though he staid an hour afterwards, do not recollect that he said any thing of consequence, or that his behaviour betrayed either apprehension, triumph, or concern.

Court. No particular expression fell from the prisoner on this occasion?—A. No one of moment.

Court. Do you know where he lodged at this time?

A. No; I was never at his lodgings.

Q. How was the address written?—A. Smith wrote it, by the prisoner's directions.

Cross examined.

Q. He gave you his address?—A. Yes.

Q. Did he act and speak with the confidence of an innocent man?—A. Am not clear.

M' MANUS.

This evidence, who is a Bow-street officer, proved the seizure of a great coat and a pair of boots in the prisoner's lodging in Bury-street. On being asked by Mr. Knowles, at the immediate instance of prisoner, if he had seen there any instrument, or cloth, or thing bloody, he answered, No.

Mr. TOMPKIN, Surgeon.

Q. What do you know of Miss Ann Porter?—A. I lately attended her in consequence of a wound she received from some assassin.

Q. Does

Q. Does it appear to you, that the instrument used was sharp?—A. Yes; very sharp.

Q. Of what nature was the wound?—A. The depth of the wound was four inches; the skin was injured the breadth of nine or ten inches; and, if not for the intervention of the stays, the instrument must have penetrated the abdomen.

The evidence for the prosecution closing here, the Court called on the prisoner for his defence.

DEFENCE of the PRISONER.

When it is considered what universal alarm the depredations of the man denominated *The Monster* have excited in the metropolis, need we wonder that the moment in which he is about to make his defence, should be considered as an interesting one, by a splendid and numerous auditory! silence and attention pervaded every corner.

He endeavoured to speak his defence from a few random notes; but losing his recollection, he found himself, after several attempts, unable to proceed. He therefore begged permission to read it from a paper; which being granted, he began by observing, that however poignant might have been the sufferings of his prosecutors, he must consider his own to be of equal, if not of greater magnitude, than theirs. Independent of standing in the predicament of a criminal, he had the popular cry, whether true or false, against him; scandalous paragraphs and injurious reports were multiplied without number; against the force and the clamour, therefore, of popular prejudice, he had to contend; and he was ready

to

to confess that this ungenerous treatment had almost deprived him of the ability to proceed with proper spirit in his justification. But he had one consolation, that of trial by an English Jury ; and to the tribunal before which he stood, should he chearfully resign himself. He had no doubt but the prosecution arose on the grounds of some dreadful mistake ; and this, he had little doubt, would be fully proved by the witnesses who were about to appear in his justification.

Evidence to prove the ALIBI.

A—**MICHELL**, an artificial florist, examined by means of an interpreter.

Q. Where do you live?—**A.** In Dover-street, No. 14, Piccadilly.

Q. Do you know the Prisoner?—**A.** Yes.

Q. Did he live with you as a servant?—**A.** Yes ; eight or nine months.

Q. Was he with you in January last?—**A.** Yes.

Q. Did he work with you on the Queen's birth-day?
—**A.** Yes.

Q. How long did he work that day?—**A.** From nine in the morning till half past twelve at night.

Q. Was he absent any part of the day?—**A.** Yes ; from one till two.

Q. Did he sup with you that night?—**A.** Yes, at twelve, and staid till half past twelve.

Q. Did he work that day more than usual?—**A.** Yes, more than common.

Q. Was he at work all the day?—**A.** Yes, incessantly till nine at night ; and finally quitted at half past twelve.

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Q. If

Q. If out for any considerable space of time, is it likely that it would have been observed?—A. It must have been known.

Q. Of what kind of disposition was Rynwick Williams?—A. Of the best; his character the best a man can bear, as to work.

Q. What his behaviour to the women servants?—A. Civil.

Q. How long have you known the prisoner?—A. I have been in London four years, and have known the prisoner eight or nine months: he came, asked for work, and was taken without any recommendation.

Q. What is your general time of leaving off work?—A. Nine o'clock.

Q. How often do you work till twelve?—A. Only when hurried with a press of business. For fourteen days previous to the 18th, this was the case, in consequence of an order from *Ireland*.

Q. Have you this order in writing?—A. No; the gentleman left it himself.

Q. During this hurry, how often did the prisoner work till twelve o'clock?—A. Cannot exactly say; but seven or eight times.

Q. Were you from home the 18th of January?—A. Yes; I went out about three, from curiosity, and returned at six in the evening.

Q. And had you no curiosity to see the illuminations after this time?—A. No; I received an order after my return.

Q. Who brought the order?—A. Mr. Gerfaux, who came from Mrs. Abingdon, and gave orders to me that it must be done as soon as possible.

Q. Who worked on this order?—A. Myself, the prisoner, and two women lodgers. The English women had leave given them to go out.

Q. Were you and the prisoner out together that day?—A. No.

Q. Where did the prisoner dine on the 18th?—A. Don't know.

Q. Did he always sup with you?—A. Never but on urgent occasions.

Q. Was the prisoner constant at his work?—Yes; was *never* in the street but once or twice, unless sent out.

Q. To ascertain the moment of his departure on the 18th, did you look at your watch?—A. No.

Q. Then how swear positively to half past twelve?—A. I heard it from the maid, who looked at the clock, and observed how well the *clock* kept time with the *watchman*.

Q. Who let out the prisoner?—A. Molly.

Q. In what part of the house did she make her observation?—A. Do not know *where* she made it; it was not made to him, but to his *sister*!

Q. When did your sister inform you of the observation made?—A. Some time afterwards; *about three weeks ago*!

Q. What had you for supper that night?—A. Cannot recollect.

Q. After the 18th of January, when next did you see the prisoner?—A. Next morning, between seven or eight o'clock.

Q. How long afterwards did he continue to work with you ?—A. Till the 4th of June, the King's birthday.

Q. Where did the Irish gentleman lodge who left the order ?—A. In Piccadilly, next door to the Paris diligence.

Q. Why in particular recollect the occurrences in your family on the Queen's birth-day ?—A. Prisoner applied to me to know if I could recollect those circumstances.—Never thought of it till such application.

Q. Were you at home last night ?—[*Hesitates*].—A. I walked out to Mary-le-bone, Grosvenor and Soho squares, before tea.

Q. And were you from home afterwards ?—A. No.

Q. Did you not pass Lord William Gordon's house in Piccadilly last night ?—A. No ; but now recollect going to Jermyn-street to settle with a carpenter— from thence I went to several other places, and then home.

Q. Then you were not in the Green Park last night, nor near Lord William Gordon's ?—A. No.

MISS MICHELL.

Q. With respect to yourself, what has been the prisoner's behaviour ?—A. He deserves the best of characters.

Q. Who took in the order from Mrs. Abingdon ?—
A. Myself and brother.

Q. Who was present when the prisoner left your house
on

on the night of January 18?—A. My brother, myself, two women, and a man who came in accidentally.

Q. Who let him out?—A. They call her *Molly*; I do not know her *Christian* name.

Court. Does your brother carry on a large trade?—

A. Yes; very large.

Q. When did you first hear the observation made by the woman, that the clock and watchman agreed on the night of the 18th as to time?—A. About three weeks since.

To whose account was Mrs. Abingdon's dress entered in your books?—A. To Mr. Gerfaux, who gave the order.

To prove this assertion more fully, Mr. Justice Buller ordered a messenger to fetch the account-books of Michell, and of Gerfaux, and requesting the latter also to attend the Court, in the mean while proceeded to examine

CATHERINE HARMOND.

Q. Who let out the prisoner from your master's house on the night of the Queen's birth-day?—A. My sister, at half past twelve o'clock.

Q. What do you know of his disposition and temper?—A. He is not malicious, but good-natured and civil.

Q. How did he attend his business?—A. Very constantly; never out all day, except once or twice on leave.

Q. How long have you lived at Michell's?—A. Three years.

Q. Did the prisoner often work so late as on the 18th of January?—A. Cannot swear he ever worked so late since.

Q. Did you and your sister never visit him at his lodgings?—A. No.

Q. How happened it, that you so well recollect the lateness of the prisoner's departure?—A. My sister said she was *afraid* he would not be able to get into his lodgings.

Q. Where did your sister mention to you the time of the prisoner's departure?—A. In the parlour, immediately after he went away.

Q. In what language did she speak?—A. In English.

Q. Do you and your sister understand French?—A. Yes.

Q. And was not French the common language used in the family?—A. Yes.

Q. Then what you wished others not to hear, you spoke in English?—A. We generally conversed on our own affairs in English.

Q. From the conversation between you that evening, from your sister's *fears* that the prisoner would be too late for his lodging, and the coincidence between the clock and the watchman, you are confident of the time he left your master's house?—A. Positively recollect the time.

Court. When were the orders given for the goods to be sent to Ireland?—A. On the Wednesday following.

Q. Do you recollect the quantity?—A. Cannot say.

Q. Did you hear any thing of the Irish order on the 18th?—A. No.

MOLLY

MOLLY HARMOND.

Q. What time did you let out the prisoner on the Queen's birth-day from your master's?—A. At half past twelve.

Q. Are you sure he supped there?—A. Yes.

Q. How long had you lived there?—A. Six weeks.

Q. What was the prisoner's character, as to disposition?—A. Good-nature was his general character.

Q. Do you recollect his ever staying so late before?—A. He never staid so late before.

Q. Are you confident he never staid late, but on this one occasion?—A. He did stay sometimes, when business pressed.

Q. How long did you continue in the shop on the 18th of January. A. From four till twelve.

Q. Did your master work that day, or was he absent?—A. Know not when he came home, nor when he began to work.

Q. Who were employed on Mrs. Abingdon's dress?—A. Myself, *master*, and the prisoner.

Q. Did you never express your *fears* that the prisoner would not find his lodgings open on that night?—A. No, never expressed any anxiety about it!

Q. By what means did you notice the clock that night?—A. Mr. Williams, in going out, asked what o'clock it was, and told me to look.

Q. When did you inform your sister of the hour of the prisoner's departure?—A. About three weeks since, after he was apprehended!

FRANCES BEAUTE, a Workwoman.

Q. Do you know the prisoner?—A. Yes.

Q. How long did you work on the evening of the queen's birth-day?—A. Till half past eleven.

Q. Where do you live?—A. In Coventry-court, Coventry-street.

Q. Was the prisoner at work that day? A. Yes; I left him there; the cloth was about to be laid for supper when I departed.

Q. As to the prisoner's behaviour, what can you say? A.—He always appeared good-natured.

Q. How long have you lived in the family?—A. About six weeks.

Q. Did you see your master from two to six?—A. Yes, he was never out! All were to work on the gown from two till half past eleven!

Q. When was the gown finished?—A. A day or two after the birth-day.

On her cross examination, knows only, generally, that an order came from Ireland.

— **POURNE**, another of the Women.

Q. How long did you live with Mr. Michell?—A. From Christmas to February 14.

Q. On which order were you working the 18th of January?—A. On the same order in *morning* as *afternoon*.

Q. What do you know of your master's attention to business that day?—A. He worked from dinner, immediately after two o'clock, till eleven.

Q. Did

Q. Did he go out?—A. Cannot positively say; but believe he did.

Q. When were you applied to for your evidence?—
A. Since the taking of the prisoner.

J. F. GERFAUX, *artificial flower-maker, Castle-street,
Leicester-fields.*

Q. When did you call on Michell with your order for Mrs. Abingdon?—A. On the Queen's birthday.

Q. At what hour did you call?—A. At seven I went with the pattern, but did not give the order till eight.

Q. Did you see Michell?—A. No; he was out at seven, and, I believe, at eight. Don't recollect seeing him at all that evening.

Q. When did you receive your order complete?—A. Eight yards of trimming were delivered to me next morning; Mrs. Abingdon only wanted six; I kept the two others myself: it was eighteen shillings per yard.

Q. Do you know any thing of the prisoner?—A. By going frequently to the house—for I married Mr. Michell's sister—I observed in him nothing but good nature.

Mr. Gerfaux was the last who appeared in support of the alibi; after which Counsel proceeded to call fourteen persons to bear honourable testimony to the prisoner's character: among whom were *several* young women, whose appearance, however, did not bespeak them of the highest class, but rather of the inferior kind.

Sarah Brady had known him six months, and found him inoffensive.

Miss

Miss Camorin had *knowledge* of him for eight years; worked with him five months, and found him thoroughly good natured and civil.

Carey, a publican, gave him the character of an amiable young man: but could say little as to his general means of supporting himself.

Mr. Crompton, an attorney, said he had lived with him two months; that he was not surly, but attentive to business.

Mary Pearce, a respectable woman, had known him from a child.

Thomas Williams, of St. James's street, had known him six years, and was perfectly astonished at the accusation. He always thought he *liked the ladies too well!* He had often seen the prisoner make artificial flowers, as learnt him by his sister. But knew nothing as to his visible means of livelihood.

Sarah Seward said she had known him four years; that he was an honest young man; that his behaviour to her had been *manly* [*loud laugh*]; that he had saved her life!

William Baker believes him to be an honest young man; he slept at his house four months.

Mr. Smith produced nothing in addition to the character of his old acquaintance, whatever might have been his intention.

In this predicament was James Sterling.

JUDGE's CHARGE to the JURY.

Mr. Justice Buller, with wonderful judgment and ability, went through the whole of this intricate and
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extraordinary affair. He began with adverting to the defence set up by the prisoner, which he said was conducted on proper grounds. Popular prejudices often injured, without ever serving the cause of justice. Under these circumstances, the prisoner had done well to throw himself on the compassion of the Jury: they were bound to deliberate and determine dispassionately. It was their province to determine on facts; they must discriminate what bore the semblance of truth, and what of falsehood. Should they find the prisoner guilty on the present charge, he should still reserve his case for the opinion of the Twelve Judges of England; and this for several reasons. First, he was not satisfied of the forms and sufficiency of the indictment. It was a new case, it was the first of the kind which had ever been tried. The statute upon which this indictment was founded, is the 6th Geo. I. chap. 23, sect. 11, which enacts, "That if any person or persons shall, at any time or times, from and after the 24th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1720, wilfully and maliciously assault any person or persons in the public streets or highways, with an intent to tear, spoil, cut, burn, or deface, or shall tear, spoil, cut, burn, or deface the garments or clothes of such person or persons, that then all and every person and persons so offending, being thereof lawfully convicted, shall be, and be adjudged to be guilty of *felony*, &c."

Allowing the fact that Ann Porter was cut, the intent remained to be proved; and next, whether the act was perpetrated by the prisoner. From the many opportunities which the Miss Porters had of seeing the prisoner; from the lightness of the street, when last attacked, it is probable

bable that these ladies could *not* be mistaken. The familiar manner—"O ho!" in which the affassin addressed Miss Porter in St. James's Street, when a chairman was passing, certainly indicated a previous intimacy. It was not the language, nor the manner, of a stranger: and yet nothing is more clear, than that Rynwick Williams had neither correspondence nor intimacy with the Porter family. To what cause, then, must we impute this singular manner of address—"O ho!"

The evidence of Coleman is clear and circumstantial; the prisoner was pointed out to him by Ann Porter; he instantly followed him from street to street, threw himself insultingly in his way, to dare him to an explanation: but these insults the prisoner bore with patience and forbearance. That he should go direct to the door of Mr. Porter, when informed by Coleman that they were near the spot, by no means serves to criminate: independently of what had happened, he might know the residence of this family. View him before the most affecting scene, which can be conceived; two young ladies fainting and exclaiming, "That is the wretch!" What is his reply? "Do the ladies conceive me to be the person advertised? Their behaviour is very odd." Coleman said, "It is really so!" And though, after this, he remained on the spot a considerable time, it does not appear, that he said any thing, or at least so little as not to be worth the recollection. Was this the conduct of an innocent man?

Giving his address to Coleman, at a place where he did not lodge, by no means militates in his disfavour. It was
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the residence of his mother, and where he was supposed to be always heard of. That was sufficient.

There were seven to prove an alibi : Michell's evidence turns out to be all hearsay ; he is culpable : it was not till after the imprisonment of Williams, that he began to recollect what passed on the 18th of January ; and his evidence is replete with contradictions. His sister and himself expressly disagree as to the time of Gerfaux's calling at the house : Michell also swears that he had the Irish order a fortnight before the Queen's Birth-Day ; one of his servants, that it came the Sunday preceding that day ; and another, that they were not busy for two weeks before the 18th.

Catherine Harmond swears to having communicated the hour when the prisoner left the house, to her sister, that evening, in English, in the parlour ; the other flatly contradicts this assertion, and ascribes the matter to have occurred since the prisoner was apprehended. It seems pretty clear, that Mrs. Abingdon's order did not arrive till the evening ; and yet another swears that the same work which was in hand in the morning remained so in the afternoon.

Where Gerfaux and Michell disagree, the former's accounts, being fair, seem to justify his relation. The accounts of the latter have not that candid appearance. It has been established, that the prisoner supped often at the house of his master ; for which reason, it is the less to be expected, that one night should be more particularly recognized than another.

In answer, it may be observed, that the principal evidences

dences are foreigners; that, without an evil intention, they are more liable than others to mistakes. Little variations, however, in such a case, ought not to weigh decisively, were the grand outlines properly established.

There were fourteen persons who had appeared in behalf of the prisoner; some of them had long since lost sight of his acquaintance, and others had contracted it but recently. The weight of their opinions should operate properly on the minds of the Jury.

There was a wound given with an instrument not calculated altogether for the purpose of affecting the body, such for instance as *piercing* or *stabbing* by making a hole. Here was an actual cutting, and the wound was of considerable length; so was the rent in the clothes. It remained, therefore, with the Jury to decide, whether, as both body and clothes were cut, he who intended the end, did not at the same time intend also the means.

The Jury, without the least hesitation, found Rynwick Williams guilty; when the Judge ordered judgment to be arrested, and the recognizances of the persons bound to prosecute, to be respited till the next December sessions.

OBSER-

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

UPON considering this very extraordinary trial, a few *observations* naturally occur; and it is rather surprising, that some of them were not adverted to or mentioned, on the occasion, by the *prisoner* and his *counsel*.

It appears singular that Mrs. *Miel*, the lady that was along with the two Miss *Porters* at the very time the crime was committed, and also that their brother or the person who opened the door were *not* brought forward to give their testimony, which certainly might have been considered as of the utmost importance.

Their evidence was surely very material; and yet we hear *no apology*, on one side, why it was not produced; nor on the other is this *striking omission* urged, or even adverted to. A circumstance certainly of much weight, and highly interesting, when the
decisive

decisive evidences against him were only two, and an *alibi* was positively sworn to by *seven* different witnesses, who all *agreed in that part of their testimony*, however they might differ in some other particulars.

In such parts of their evidence also as they contradicted each other, it is the less extraordinary, as, being foreigners, their testimony was given through the intermedium of an *interpreter*, by which means the witnesses were unable to explain or set right any mistakes or misconceptions that might have happened.

Upon the whole, NO LIGHT has been thrown upon this strange and important business, even by the investigation of a long and *solemn public trial*, excepting only to establish the truth of what has been so much doubted, *that such unaccountable acts of cruelty really have been committed.*

We shall conclude this unprecedented business with the following additional observations, viz.

1st. That a number of women have been attacked, and some of them very dangerously

wounded, in a strange and unaccountable manner, is evident beyond all possibility of doubt.

2d. That these unprecedented and barbarous actions have been committed by *men*, or rather *creatures in the shape of men*, a disgrace to society, the outcasts of the creation.

3d. That there are SEVERAL of these *unnatural wretches*, these inhuman MONSTERS, is evident, from the most clear and decisive proofs, both circumstantial and positive.

In the first place, at least four or five different descriptions of persons have been given by those women who have been attacked and wounded, varying from each other, in the widest manner, both in stature and complexion : and of this striking difference of description, those ladies, who had the best opportunities of observing with precision, are the most clear and positive.

For a woman that is only five feet high may, by mistake, easily imagine that a man

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of

of five feet six inches is very tall, and may describe him as six feet in stature.

But a woman who is tall herself, perhaps five feet nine or ten inches in height, when she has a good opportunity of making particular observations, cannot be mistaken in the same manner. She cannot think a man of five feet six inches is tall, and certainly would not describe such a man as six feet or upwards high; when it must strike her, that he was lower than herself by three or four inches.

This observation relates to the person who wounded Miss Dodson, whose testimony is of the strongest weight, and is supported by that of Miss Morley, Miss Anderson, Mary Carter, and the watchman; viz. "*that the man, or men, who attacked and wounded them, was, or were, at least six feet or upwards in height.*"

To this decisive proof may be added, the very strong circumstance, of four different attacks, on four different parties of ladies, in four different places, all at the same time, and on the same night, viz. the
19th

18th of January 1790, the Queen's birth-night, which, as must strike every thinking person's mind, would be absolutely impossible to be done by one man.

Besides all this, the positive proof, that has come before the public, of two different persons having been actually sworn to, and identified upon the oath of ladies, whose characters, in every respect, are altogether unexceptionable, and inferior to none, amounts to absolute certainty.

4th. That these unnatural men, these MONSTERS, certainly have some knowledge of or communications with each other: which evidently appears from the exact similitude of their attacks, as well as from the savage pleasure and delight each of them seems to enjoy in the terror, pain, and distress of the fair unfortunate victims whom they wound.

5th. It will appear singular and striking that a great proportion, perhaps the greater number, have been attacked or wounded on Sundays; viz. Mrs. Smyth, Mrs. Chippingdale, Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Blaney, Miss

Morley, Susan — Mrs. Collins's maid, Mrs. Gordon's maid, a young woman in Boswell-court, Miss Elizabeth Baughan, Miss Frances Baughan, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Thompson, a maid servant in Holborn; and the insults, &c. to Mrs. Franklin, Miss Wheeler, and to the four Miss Porters, repeatedly given in Kensington Gardens, in Pall Mall, in the Park, and in St. James's Street, were on Sundays also.

By this it appears, that at least twenty of these attacks were made on Sunday evenings, the very day of all in the week, that *gentlemen* of any considerable rank in life are by no means fond of perambulation.

The conclusion from this must be, either that these actions are committed chiefly or generally by persons of the lower class, of depraved minds and dispositions, who, it is notorious, are all out, and frequently in every kind of mischief, on Sunday evenings; or that, if they are committed by any persons of a superior rank, they

purposely pursue their prey, and gratify their horrid propensities, with more avidity on Sunday evenings, than on any other nights.

But, to discover, or even in any manner to account for, the *motives* that stimulate these MONSTERS to commit such peculiar and shocking acts of cruelty, after every consideration, after every enquiry, after racking our imagination, and turning the subject in every point of view, we must confess ourselves entirely at a loss.

The *motive* or cause of any particular action, even in common life, is always difficult to be traced or discovered : then how much more so must the motive of this action be? an action altogether unprecedented !

In tracing out causes or motives we must be guided in a great measure by our own sensations. Thus the good will seek for them in virtuous intentions ; the wicked will search for them among the mazes and in the wilderness of vice.

The only conjecture that can be formed
is

is equally unaccountable to us, and repugnant to our feelings.

However, the absurd detestable propensities of some degenerated wretches, who are abandoned to the basest sensuality, are sufficiently known and established. In the labyrinths and sinks of this abominable vice, then, the *causes* or *motives* of these unnatural barbarities are alone to be sought for; for it is very certain, that, no where else are they to be found.

F I N I S.